

Magi Craft Meister

- Volume 10 -
Visiting Cline Kingdom

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Chapter 1

New Home

Kaina Village, the 25th of April.

It was the season of early summer when the rays of the sun grew stronger and the days became more cheerful.

The mountains were completely covered in green leaves and the ears of the wheat in the fields had also grown long. The season when blowing winds were no longer cold and had a pleasant feel to them.

Extension work to Martha's house was underway.

The workshop Jin had been using was originally used by Martha's late husband who was a smith, so it was only the size of around six tatami mats.

Jin figured he'd double the size to 12 tatami mats along with adding a second floor to serve as a living space.

As it had been arranged that Elsa and Mine would live in Martha's house, Jin decided to use the chance to properly make a place where he'd fit in.

“Hey Jin, I’m here to help... Wait, aren’t you half-done already?”

The men of Kaina Village came in turns to help with construction during the breaks from their work.

For putting up the supports and such Jin had Gon and Gen along with Reiko who insisted on helping, so the supports were placed in a heartbeat and they continued with constructing the floor.

In the morning, far from just the framework, nearly 80% of the work was fully completed.

Jin had lunch and in the afternoon it was time for the interior design.

“Magi Craftsmen really are amazing, huh.”

Everyone who came to see the house that was built in an excessively short time was similarly surprised. However,

“Well, it’s Jin after all.”

Accepting it with just that was sort of the way Kaina Village worked.

Its outward appearance was a two-storey house with a one-sided slanted roof. The first floor had the workshop and the second floor had the living space.

The front of the first floor was wide and had a long, so-called porch roof installed. When the weather was good he could also work under it.

He also decided to dig a basement some other time and store materials there. Of course he’d also secretly install a small Warp Gate.

The second floor was divided to two rooms each six tatami mats large. Immediately after going up the stairs was the living room, and Jin’s bedroom-cum-study was at the back.

Since no soft rush grew around Kaina Village he wasn’t able to make a tatami-matted floor, but as his bedroom had a wooden floor Jin was, as a Japanese person, still fussy about taking the shoes off when entering the room.

“Onii-chan, can I come up?”

Hannah called out to Jin from downstairs.

Hannah had clung to Jin since morning and watched him work. Right now she was looking around the rooms. She must’ve found it curious since only the village chief had a two-storey house.

“Sure you can.”

As he was done with sweeping the second floor and had confirmed that no wood chips or anything dangerous had been left lying around, Jin replied to Hannah.

“Yay~”

Hannah happily came up. And promptly glued herself to the window.

“Wow, what a view.”

The view of the village from the second floor was a little different.

“Ah, I can see the water well. And that’s the hot spring’s roof~”

Hannah was in high spirits.

Incidentally there was no dining room or kitchen, as Martha had firmly insisted,

“I won’t forgive you if you’re going to tell me you’ll eat separately from us!”

Jin had then gladly agreed.

“Father, the roof is finished.”

Reiko, who had been entrusted with the task of tiling the roof as she was the lightest of them all came down.

“Reiko onee-chan, good job.”

“Thank you, Hannah-chan.”

Reiko smiled at Hannah, then said to Jin,

“Next is the desk, chairs, and the bed, am I correct?”

Jin gave a nod and said,

“Yeah. Linus said he’ll make them for the housewarming party.”

One of the men in village, Linus, was unexpectedly good at woodworking. He had made half of the chairs and the tables used in the village.

“I’m no match for you, but it’s the thought that counts.”

That’s what Linus had said. Jin also emphasized that to Reiko so she wouldn’t be nitpicky.

“Jin-nii, I saw Linus-san.”

This time Elsa’s voice came from downstairs. They looked down from the window and saw Linus with a trailer that had a wooden bed on it.

Jin quickly went downstairs and,

“Linus, thanks for taking your time to do this.”

He thanked Linus. Linus laughed, waved his hand, and said,

“What the heck are you saying, this doesn’t amount to even a tenth of the work you’ve done for us.”

“First is the bed. I’ll leave this here and go fetch the table and chairs.”

“Thank you very much. Reiko, could you please carry it.”

“Yes.”

Reiko nodded, easily picked up the bed and carried it out. Linus watched her leave and,

“Not just Jin, but Reiko-chan’s incredible too, huh.”

He pulled the trailer and turned back while voicing his admiration.

In the end, the exterior and interior were both complete in a single day and, although modest, they had a celebration for the completion in the evening.

Although the line-up was just the organizer Jin, Reiko (who didn’t eat or drink), Hannah, Martha, Elsa, and Mine.

Jin planned to gift boxes of Citran to the people who helped tomorrow morning.

“And so, thanks for everything you’ve done today!”

“Jin, congratulations on finishing the house!”

“Onii-chan, congratulations~!”

“Jin-nii, congratulations.”

“Jin-sama, congratulations.”

Everyone was smiling and cheered in unison.

They then enjoyed the food Martha and Mine had considerably prepared. Actually,

“Jin-nii, this soup, I made it.”

Elsa had apparently also done her best.

“Mh-hm, it’s tasty. You’re also doing your best with cooking, aren’t you.”

“Mm.”

“Onii-chan, onii-chan. I chopped the vegetables and peeled the Citran too!”

Hannah also showed off.

“Ah, thank you Hannah. It’s delicious.”

“Ehehe~”

Martha’s house was calm, and gently Kaina Village grew dark. It was a day you’d want to continue forever, as if all was right in the world.

After dinner, Mine had something to tell Jin.

“Jin-sama, we’ve decided to hold a study group from tomorrow on.”

Mine explained that she had talked about it some time ago and decided to teach reading, writing, and mathematics.

“We’ll borrow the chief-san’s house as the location and I was thinking about starting with two or three hours a day.”

“Ah, because the chief’s living room is large, I see.”

Because the village head’s house was also used to hold the village meetings, it had a large rooms. She had arranged to borrow them, Mine said.

“That’s good, isn’t it. Keep it up. If you need help with anything feel free to ask me.”

Jin said, then Mine smiled and gave a bow.

“Yes, thank you very much. As Elsa will also be with me it’ll be alright.”

“I see, Elsa too. Do your best.”

“Mm, Jin-nii.”

Even though it may not look like it, Elsa was fond of children. Jin who knew that thought that it might unexpectedly be good encouragement for Elsa herself too.

“Oh yeah, let me prepare the materials to use for writing.”

Jin proposed after something popped to his mind.

“Could you? I was thinking of using slates and writing with water at first though.”

If you dribbled water on a slate that had been shaven smooth, its color would change. Apparently she had been thinking of using this, but,

“No, I’ve got something much better. I’ll give it to you tomorrow.”

Jin said and took on the task.

Chapter 2

Nostalgia

On the same night when Jin heard that Mine and Elsa were starting a study group, he warped to Hourai Island. This time he took Elsa with him. It goes without saying that Reiko came along too.

Since a small Warp Gate had been installed in the new home's basement they were able to travel easily and without having to go to the shelter.

“Welcome back, master.”

Managing the Warp Gates was the butler golem ‘Butler-1’ that had started working only yesterday.

The adult male type SP golems were used as its base, and to have it serve as a guard too its power output was a little bit higher than the SP's.

In addition, there were plans to have butler golems in various administrative tasks on Hourai Island.

“Welcome back, My Lord.”

The brain of Hourai Island, Laojun, welcomed Jin.

“I'm home. Laojun, I know it's sudden but could you prepare some cloth woven out of a Ground Spider's silk?”

“As you wish. How much is it that you need?”

“Let's see, I think that a piece of cloth with a width of one meter and a height of five meters should be enough.”

“I will have it brought to you at once.”

And so Jin went to the workshop. There he found that the golem maid Peridot-17 who

was in charge of the chores had already carried in the cloth.

“Ah, thanks.”

Jin thanked her and Peridot-17 gave a bow and left.

“Father, what are you going to make with the Ground Spider silk?”

Jin’s number one helper Reiko asked.

“Hm? I figured I’d make use of the special characteristics of cloth woven out of a Ground Spider’s silk and make a whiteboard.”

Jin replied.

“A whiteboard... I see.”

Reiko seemed to immediately understand, but Elsa looked to be full of questions. Noticing that, Jin began explaining.

“Elsa, a whiteboard is a board that teachers in my previous world used to explain or write down things when teaching their pupils.”

Actually blackboards were more widely used, but talking about that would’ve made it more complex so Jin continued talking about just the whiteboard for now.

“So, the silk of a Ground Spider is hard to stain. Even Reiko’s clothes are made entirely of it.”

After explaining that far Elsa too seemed to understand as she made an exaggerated nod.

“I got it. You can write letters or such on it and explain. And because it doesn’t stain the written letters disappear after a light wipe.”

“That’s correct.”

Elsa appeared to have understood.

“So by attaching this to a board we can make a whiteboard for the teacher to use. If we

cut smaller pieces out of it, children can use them to practice and take notes.”

“Got it. Very useful.”

“Since it’s still unreasonable for you to make them, just watch us, Elsa.... Reiko, let’s start.”

“I understand.”

And so Jin and Reiko split the labor and began to work. The silk of a Ground Spider couldn’t be worked with normal tools. Either tools made out of Adamantite or Craft Magic needed to be used.

Jin and Reiko worked rapidly with their Craft Magic and built one blackboard-sized one and 27 small squares with 30 centimeters long edges.

“Amazing. Can I also do it like that one day?”

Elsa who had watched with sparkling eyes asked Jin. Jin promised her.

“Yeah, I’ll teach you.”

“Mm. I can’t wait.”

Next were pens and ink.

This world had pens too, but they were quill pens. Jin thought about making them out of metal, but since regular iron would soon wear down if rubbed against cloth woven out of a Ground Spider’s silk and there was also the weight to think about, so he used the 6/4 Light Silver alloy.

So as to make them fixable with Craft Magic if they did wear down, he made them out of the same material all the way to the shaft. They were dip pens of the so-called Kabura Pen variety. They were easy to make because they were comparatively simple.

“Elsa, you can try making these too.”

Jin gave her the required amount of 6/4 Light Silver and told her to give it a try.

“Mm. [Forming].”

The 6/4 Light Silver changed its shape...

“...It’s hard.”

...Into a weird one.

“As I said earlier, the image is important. Close your eyes and imagine the shape you want to make, and then give it another try.”

“Mm. I got it. [Forming].”

This time it went rather well. The left and right side weren’t symmetrical though.

“Oh, you did rather well. Give it one more go.”

“Mm. I’ll try.”

Elsa practiced many more times. Around the tenth time she managed to complete a usable pen.

“Oh, this is alright. Good job.”

Jin praised her and Elsa smiled pleasantly. Lately her facial expressions seemed to have become more common.

Next was the ink. Well, water with color mixed in would do but the other day the Mermaid corps discovered a fish just like a squid (or rather a mollusc), so its ink ended up being used.

If time passed then it would maybe pale, but for practice it should be enough.

Next was the marker for Mine, or rather for the teacher to use.

Jin shaped Light Silver into a tube and made its head narrow, then made a felt shape out of hardened Ground Spider silk and put it in as the tip. He then filled the body with ink and closed it with Craft Magic to finish.

Or so he thought, but then ink began overflowing out of the tip. It seemed that he really did need something like cotton wadding permeated with ink or it wouldn’t work.

Jin redid it. Jin made wadding out of the Ground Spider's silk and stuffed it inside the pen stop the ink from overflowing.

"Mh-hm, this time it seems to be a success."

"My Lord, there is one final report."

"Hm, what is it?"

"The aircraft carrier has been completed. It is the first warship 'Hokata'."

"Oh, that's good."

"The reason for the delayed completion was the need for trial and error in various parts and applying revisions."

Considering the true strength of Hourai Island which finished building the submersible base in a single day, taking over 10 days to do this was strange in a sense.

As usual, there was no one around to retort with "which option's weird here, huh?".

"The two-layered structure was no good. It makes landing and takeoff all the more time-consuming. As it uses a Warp Gate, it's not a problem if we keep the number of aircraft stationed on the carrier as low as possible."

The explanation continued.

"To make landing and takeoff more efficient, the deck has been arranged to go diagonally across the ship's center line."

This 'angled deck' structure was something already put to practical use, but since Jin didn't know of it Laojun had to arrive at the idea by himself.

"The weapons are as instructed. Some other small adjustments and revisions will be made. But after finishing the first warship, surely we should build the second and third ships as soon as possible."

"I see. Good work. Keep it up."

"Yes, understood."

While handling all sorts of tasks it had suddenly become nearly midnight.

“Now then, so that we don’t lack sleep we should be going to bed soon. Let’s go back to Kaina Village.... I’ll explain to you later about the aircraft carrier.”

“Okay, Jin-nii.”

They got out of the Warp Gate in the basement, and here in Kaina Village at 9 PM everyone was sleeping.

Elsa snuck back to the house so as not to wake up Martha, Mine, and Hannah while Jin went to the bedroom that had been recently finished.

And then he realized.

“There’s no futon.”

He had been thoughtless.

“Father, I will fetch one from the mansion.”

Reiko turned around. She warped to Hourai Island. Few minutes later she came back.

She brought a new futon, a duvet, and a pillow. Finally Jin could sleep.

“Good night, Reiko.”

“Good night.”

The night went on.



It had become a daily routine for Reiko who had no need for rest to talk with Laozi about this and that after Jin had fallen asleep.

“Today Reinhardt-san made routine contact. Nothing’s unusual, but he seems to still be forced to stay in Astan.”

“Celuroa Kingdom was the country with the most brainwashed ministers, so they

surely haven't recovered their faculties."

Right now, the Unifiers were actually falling apart in every country, and because their influence disappeared everything was in disorder.

Celuroa Kingdom was the most disorderly of all, as indeed three in four cabinet ministers were puppets of the Unifiers.

The Quinta sent out and spread the names of the brainwashed people, and each country had their own responses to it.

"It seems that Egelia Kingdom is testing the [Shock] magic for cancelling brainwashing."

Information had come to Laojun through the Quinta.

"Cline Kingdom seems to be the same. The countries with not enough nobles, or rather, not enough of the leading class seem to be having it hard."

"How about Frantz Kingdom?"

"There they have been simply fired. Ah, not burned in a literal sense. I mean that they've been removed from their posts."

"Even I know that much, Laojun. But Frantz Kingdom is rather small so they should be able to manage, right?"

"Yes. Celuroa Kingdom is doing the worst. They similarly fired people and hired new ones, but since they've got so many people a lot of departments have stopped operating."

"And so Reinhardt-san can't leave either."

"That's how it seems. The army seems to be the most disorderly department."



In the headquarters of the Unifiers where Jin had sent the repaired and rebuilt Elena, the top seat Joule and the next seat Donald were cooperating with planning the reorganization of their group.

“Hey Donald, just what were we thinking?”

“I have no idea. We were fixated on longing for the past, and bound by that ended up doing some unthinkable deeds.”

“I was very surprised when Elena told me to take responsibility and that even death wouldn’t be enough for that. Indeed that would just be an escape.”

Then a clear and beautiful voice joined in.

“Yes, that’s right, my lord. Taking responsibility means ending the disorder and contributing to society. I’ll also do my best.”

“Ah, just having Elena gives us tremendous strength.”

No one other than Jin knew where the Unifiers’ headquarters was. And so, for now, Joule and Donald could act behind the scenes.

And so they dedicated the rest of their lives for the purpose of changing the Unifiers to a group that benefits society as a whole.

That was conveyed through Elena to Laojun, and having Jin’s permission Laojun could also help them as much as he was able to.

“And so, as proof of our new start, let’s abandon the name ‘Unifiers’, I was thinking of calling us the ‘Nostalgia’.”

“Nostalgia you say, that sounds good.”

“Yes, that is a lovely name.”

Chapter 3

Study Group

“Good~morning!”

“Good morning!”

The cheerful greetings of the children resounded in Kaina Village.

“Yes, good morning.”

“Good morning.”

The children had come to gather at village chief Gheebeck’s residence. They were children taking part in Mine and Elsa’s study group.

There were nine of them. A small number. There was simply not a lot of children to begin with.

“There’s very few of them, huh.”

Mine also noticed it. That was because normally it wasn’t unusual for families to have over three children.

Elsa too had three siblings, albeit from a different mother, while Mine even had seven siblings.

“It’s because of the bad food situation, isn’t it.”

The village chief Gheebeck caught what Mine said to herself.

“Mine-san, it is actually because some men were conscripted, and also an epidemic disease eight years ago played a part.”

He was still talking to her in a slightly formal manner.

“An epidemic disease, you say...”

Previously, Rock had also talked about this with Jin. Although Rock had told Jin the main cause was conscription, the epidemic disease had in fact been serious.

At that time Rock had yearned to be a knight and had gone to the royal capital so he didn't know of it very well.

“It was a harsh time. We lost half of the village, and to prevent contagion we had no choice but to burn all the dead to ash. That's why we don't have any proper graves for them.”

“So that's how it was...”

Gheebeck continued to talk to lighten the mood that had become a bit gloomy.

“But the number of inhabitants will go up soon.”

“Eh?”

Mine who had been looking down raised her head.

“I don't know whether it's because the burden on the villagers became a bit smaller ever since since Jin came last year, or because of the hot springs, though.”

“Ah, you mean that there are people who have become pregnant?”

Elsa who was next to them looked like she didn't understand, but as you'd expect Mine could guess.

“Yes. The bellies of five women have become bigger.”

“That's good news, isn't it.”

As they talked, Hannah turned up.

“Auntie, no wait, sensei, good morning.”

“Yes, good morning, Hannah-chan. Shall we begin soon?”

They had already exchanged greetings at the house, but Hannah had been told to draw the line between that and the study group, so she put it to practice.

Adding Hannah there were ten children in total. They were aged from seven years old to 14 years old.

“Good morning, everyone. I’m your sensei, Mine. This is my daughter Elsa who’ll be my assistant.”

“Mine-sensei! Elsa-sensei!”

The children were lively.

“Alright, calm down.”

Mine clapped her hands and made the children go silent, then said,

“Since this is the first day, let’s begin with self-introductions. Although we might all already be acquainted with each other, but since sensei came to the village only few days ago we don’t really know a lot about you. So please tell us.”

Ye~s, the children replied.

“So let’s begin with sensei. I’m Mine. 35 years old. I’m not from here, but from Egelia Kingdom. Elsa here is my daughter. Now then, Elsa, please introduce yourself.”

“...I’m, Elsa. 17 years old. I’m from Shouro Empire. I’m not very good at talking, but let’s get along well, okay?”

Once Elsa had finished speaking, the children burst into applause.

“Mine-sensei! Elsa-sensei!”

“Show us magic again!”

When she had shown her magic after the icehouse was built, Elsa had become admired by the children.

“Well then, please introduce yourselves one at a time in turns starting from over there.”

“Yeah! My name’s Patty! I just turned eight. Umm, my dad is called Linus and he’s good at making things out of wood. My mom’s Sera. She’s a bit scary when she’s angry but she’s good at making food.”

“Thank you, Patty-chan. Next one, please.”

“Yes! I’m Mario. My father is Rock and my mother is Molly.”

Like that, the children introduced themselves.

Once they were done the teaching finally began.



Jin had been watching the situation a little distance away but when Reiko tugged his sleeve and he guessed she had something to talk about they went to the back of the village head’s house.

“What is it, Reiko?”

“My apologies, Laojun has something to ask you.”

“Hmm, I wonder what. Well, let’s go there for a bit and see.”

Since there was a Warp Gate in the basement of his new home, he was able to freely go back to the research facility.

The golem managing the Warp Gate room, Butler-1 greeted them and Jin headed to the usual living room.

Laojun’s mobile terminal Laozi was waiting there.

“My Lord, my thanks for coming all the way here.”

Laozi said and gave a bow.

“As a matter of fact, there was something interesting among the weapons collected

from around Tetrada the other day.”

Laozi said and presented Jin with a short sword.

“Tetrada... Oh, that was where Cline Kingdom’s army was disarmed. So this was among the weapons?”

Jin gazed at the short sword while talking. There was nothing unusual about it, it seemed to be a sword just like any other. He tried taking it in his hand, and again noticed nothing.

“What about this?”

“For some mysterious reason, traces of My Lord’s Magical Energy can be felt from the sword.”

“Eh?”

Jin who had heard something unexpected then tried using magic to investigate its workings.

“[Inspection].”

“Indeed, this is my... Ah, I remember now. This must be Lithia’s short sword.”

Jin recalled it. It was last autumn, when he had transported wheat in taxes to Toka Village from Kaina Village together with some men. At that time, golems had appeared, and time Lithia who had then been a tax collection official recklessly used this sword to fight against them.

Even so, the sword that was made out of iron which was even softer than steel had quickly bent out of shape. Then after repelling the golems, Lithia had been feeling down after Toka Village’s smith had told her the sword couldn’t be repaired.

Unable to just watch, Jin had straightened the sword with [Forming], then turned it to a steel sword using [Carburising] and [Heat Treatment].

“This is the sword from that time. I see, Lithia was supposed to be in Tetrada too, wasn’t she.”

“By Lithia-san, you mean the person who told Father to run back then, correct?”

Reiko hadn’t been around when the golems were driven back: she was talking about the time when after that Earl Walter had come to capture Jin to a misunderstanding.

“Yeah. Looks like she’s been taking good care of this.”

The sword in his hand hadn’t rusted and had been sharpened well. Since it was Lithia’s it probably hadn’t been used in combat, and Jin could tell it had been handled with great care.

“Indeed. Someone who treasures a gift from Father is a good person.”

Reiko’s evaluation standards were plain and simple. Jin smiled awkwardly.

“If possible, I’d like to return it.”

Jin had gone and given orders to have the materials of the taken swords, spears, shields, armor, and such checked, then have them molten down to ingots except for the clearly special equipment that were imbued with magic or made out of rare materials.

Considering that, Laojun (and his subordinates) who had found this swords were deserving of praise.

“She was in the royal capital, wasn’t she?”

Jin muttered and Reiko caught his words.

“Father, don’t tell me you’re thinking of going there?”

“Hm? What’s wrong with that? My face isn’t that known in Cline Kingdom, so I don’t think it would be especially dangerous.”

“But even so...”

Lately the overprotective Reiko had frowned a lot. Laojun then gave a helping hand.

“Reiko-san, since My Lord has expressed his desire to go, I think it is proper to fulfill his wishes. And if possible, I’d like to ask for some more protective measures for My

Lord..."

"Protective measures against what?"

It was an obvious question.

"Against anything that poses a danger to My Lord."

Laojun replied and,

"Please take a look at this."

He continued, then the portable terminal Laozi took something out of a basket.

"Hmm? Clothes, aren't they?"

"Yes. These clothes were made out of thin slices of a Sea Dragon's leather."

"A Sea Dragon's leather? I wonder if this can harden on impact too in that case."

"Yes. According to our tests, it's not to the extent of the reinforced clothing but it can defend against Ann's full strength."

Ann's strength used to be about ten percent of Reiko's. In other words a human couldn't break through its defenses.

"The silver surface is the most heavy part, and by passing Magic Energy through it it can become even more robust."

The silver referred to the front of the leather which had a smooth surface. You could think of the front as the spot with the most superior defenses.

"I got it. So, pants and a coat. Thanks, Laojun."

"It is a privilege to be a help to My Lord."

There was still something else at the bottom of the basket. It looked like a lapel pin.

"And what's this?... No, wait, isn't it a Magi Tool. And what... It deploys a [Barrier] on a reaction from the clothes?"

“Yes. Please attach it to the lapel of the coat. In the case that you receive an attack and the coat hardens from impact and from Magical Energy, a [Barrier] will be instantly deployed. Since it's small the [Barrier] doesn't last long, so please activate the bracelet before it breaks.”

The equipment was perfect. The Pegasus personal airplane from earlier was good, but this time Laojun really did excellent work.

“Got it, I'll gladly put them to use.”

Chapter 4

Side Story 14: Lithia up to Now

Lithia Fahlheit was a new noble.

Her father Nicholas Fahlheit had been a leader of the soldiers of Cline Kingdom and had been bestowed with the title of Ritter due to his achievements during a border dispute.

His eldest daughter Lithia too was doing her best at being a squire.

“Next, Fahlheit!”

“Yes ma’am!”

The female squires were being trained. Right now the training was mock battles with the instructor using wooden swords.

Royalty and high-ranking nobles calling for female guards or knights wasn’t uncommon.

Even here in Cline Kingdom in the past few years the number of female knights had risen.

The instructor doing the training was the vice-captain of the female Imperial Guard knight squad. Her name was Gloria Ohlstat.

Her short and bright brown hair coupled with her reddish brown eyes gave a lively impression of her.

Many of the female knights were low-ranking nobles or children of knights. Gloria was from a household that had produced a great number of knights for generations.

Among them Lithia who had a father who was a new noble was slightly out of place.

“That girl’s keeping at it, huh.”

“Well, since her family are new nobles, if she doesn’t work hard then it’ll end with her generation.”

Half of the colleagues who were watching her train were children of nobles. Due to their status they wouldn’t be troubled even if they couldn’t become knights.

“I wish I’d get disqualified and could marry soon.”

There was even someone who didn’t hesitate to say that.

In comparison, the people born to knight households were different.

“There’s no way I who was born to a house that’s had generations upon generations of knights can lose to a rookie like that.”

“Just look at her posture. It doesn’t even resemble like a proper one. There’s not an ounce of elegance in it.”

Whether or not Lithia knew about the ridicule, she kept on facing the instructor no matter how many times her wooden sword was repelled. And in the end.

“Eek!”

Her sword was forcefully sent flying and the training came to an end.

“T-thank you very much.”

Lithia thanked the instructor while agonizingly heaving for air.

“Alright, that’s everyone, correct? Next is swinging against straw posts. Whoever’s on duty, prepare them.”

“Yes.”

Bundles of straw attached to poles in the ground were set up. The training was to cut them using swords.

“Listen, when cutting with a sword take the trajectory in consideration. You must have the edge perpendicular to the thing you’re cutting. If you don’t do that then the sword won’t cut and it might bounce off, bend, or even break.”

The instructor explained.

This was very different from *iaido* practiced with Japanese swords. In *iaido* a 45 degree angle cut is often. This was against a straw post made out of a tatami rolled up tight, which was exceedingly hard to cut through.

However, as the practice assigned to Lithia’s group was just for learning the trajectory of the blade and the feel of the increased cutting power, the toughness of the straw posts was very low.

“First, I’ll show you.”

Female knights used what were basically short swords. The instructor unsheathed the short sword hanging from her waist.

“Hyah!”

Along with her shout, the short sword flashed horizontally in a straight line. The straw post was cleanly cut in two. Gasps came out of the squires watching.

“Instructor Ohlstat is fantastic.”

Murmurs like that were heard too.

“Alright, give it a try. Cutting straight horizontally is difficult. Anderson, you’re first.”

“Yes ma’am! Take this!”

“That’s no good. Your trajectory isn’t straight. Hundred practice swings. Next, Bogard.”

“Yes.... Yahh.”

“What are you doing! If you don’t put any force in it, there’s no way you can swing in a straight line! Three hundred practice swings! Next, Carter!”

“Yes! Yaah!”

This time the straw post was cut cleanly.

“Alright, that’s adequate. Next...”

Like this all 33 of the squires kept attempting to cut the straw post one after another. People who couldn’t cut it were given an appropriate amount of practice swings.

Finally it was Lithia’s turn.

“Finally, Fahlheit. Alright, do it.”

“Yes.... Take this!”

Lithia cleanly bisected the straw post.

“Mh-hm, alright.... Hmm? Fahlheit, let me take a look at your sword.”

“Y-yes.”

Despite being flustered by the instructor suddenly asking to see her sword, Lithia handed it over.

“Hmm. Mh-hm, you’re actually using a pretty good sword. Where did you get it? I’d also like to get something of this quality.”

“U-umm, y-you see, it’s a sword a-an acquaintance Magi Craftsman repaired for me. It used to be just a normal iron sword, but it got bent and he repaired it for me.”

Because she was flustered the explanation was a little faltering, but the instructor seemed to understand.

“Hmm, is that so. That’s a good acquaintance you’ve got. Take good care of this sword.”

Gloria then turned towards everyone and,

“Ten laps around the training grounds and that’s it for today. Double time!”

She commanded and herself began running ahead of them.

After a day of training ten laps around the training grounds was rather intense. While some dropped out, Lithia stuck it through to the end while wheezing.



Then, on the 3457th year in the history of the continent, soon in the beginning of the year the neighboring Frantz Kingdom’s army violated the border and Lithia too was appointed to the relief knight troops and recruited to the battle.

Was it a shame she couldn’t become an Imperial Guard knight, or was this her calling? For Lithia it was the latter.

On the battlefield Lithia remembered what she had once talked about with Jin.

‘Isn’t it fine to live for the things you can do?, Jin had said.

“Something I can do... It’s healing after all, isn’t it.”

Due to her daily efforts in training, Lithia had mastered healing magic up to the intermediate level, and had become a healer competent even among the relief knight troops.



That year there were three repeated small fights.

The third one was the most violent battle of them all. There were many casualties, Cline Kingdom’s army was forced back, and they met the opposing Frantz Kingdom’s army at Tetrade, 50 kilometers from the border.

And at that time.

A giant golem appeared and made everyone completely unable to fight.

The weapons, armor, even the golems and tableware, any and all metallic objects of

Frantz Kingdom's army had been molten. Cline Kingdom's army had been inexplicably rendered unconscious, and once they woke up they found their weapons and armor taken...

Frontal battle being of course impossible without weapons and armor, so Frantz Kingdom's army withdrew. Lithia and the others also stayed inside Tetrada waiting for orders from the headquarters.

“Lithia, I heard you've done well.”

At that time, Lithia's father Nicholas whose working hours were over came to visit her. Nicholas was working as the deputy leader of Cline Kingdom's third chivalric order.

“Father, I'm glad you're safe!”

The father and daughter held each other's hands, both glad the other was safe.

“Lithia, it seems you've worked hard.”

“Mmh... Although there were people I couldn't save.”

Lithia spoke and looked sad. Nicholas then gently tried to reassure his daughter.

“That couldn't be helped. Everyone who went on the battlefield was prepared for what might happen. Luckily there were no casualties among the commoners.”

“Isn't that because Father and the others did their best?”

“That was our job and I'm proud of it.”

On this day a conversation like that went on between the father and the daughter.

“By the way, about that third son of the Rush family...”

Finally Nicholas spoke about the matter he was most concerned about as a father. But Lithia replied,

“Eh? About who?”

And so Nicholas felt relieved from the bottom of his heart.



The next day.

“Ah, Li-Lithia-san, morning.”

“Ah, Pasco-san, good morning.”

The face of Pasco Rush was somewhat red. On top of that he was talking in monotone.

“W-what a fine weather we’re having today, don’t you agree.”

“It’s getting cloudy though...”

“Oh, um, that’s right, uh, ha, hahaha...”

Pasco tried to smooth things over by laughing. Then he faced Lithia and,

“A-anyway, I have to go work as a guard now!”

He gave a salute and left.

“Heh, what an interesting fellow.”

Lithia then looked up at the sky.

“Guard, huh...”

Suddenly she placed her hand on her waist, and was surprised when she realized that the familiar thing wasn’t there.

“It got lost, didn’t it...”

Lithia had lost the short sword Jin had repaired for her that had been her favorite ever since.

In addition to that, there may have been another reason why she was feeling down about it.

Chapter 5

Trip Preparations

“Lithia did say she lived in the royal capital of Cline Kingdom but...”

Jin remembered how she had said ‘If you happen to come to the capital...’.

“Cline Kingdom’s royal capital, that is, the capital city.... What was it again?”

“It’s Alban, My Lord.”

Laojun told Jin.

“Ah, that was it. Alban, right. I wonder what kind of a place is it?”

Previously he had been thinking he’d like to sooner or later visit there, but that plan fell through because of the Earl called Walter or some such.

“Hmm, I suppose I’ll try asking Elsa.... Oh, right, let’s take Elsa along too. Hannah too, now that I think about it!”

Gradually Jin’s voice got louder which surprised Reiko.

“Father, that’s a...”

Still, Laojun seemed to have a different opinion.

“My Lord, if you do, then I would like to recommend changing your hair colors with magic dyes.”

“Magic dyes... Ah, I see. Simply by doing that the impression we give off would change completely.”

A part of the magic dye was made out of something collected from a magical beast that resembled a chameleon. The color of a dye like that could be freely changed using Magic Energy.

Since cleaning it off was possible using Craft Magic it was a good idea.

“However, since Elsa-san and Hannah-chan are a part of the study group they can’t be gone for more than a few days.”

Hearing Laojun’s words surprised Reiko. She realized that his intention by guiding Jin like this was to shorten the time of Jin’s outing. Laojun was several levels above Reiko with regards to plotting(?) like this.

“Ah, you’re right. Alright, a two-day trip starting from tomorrow. That should be fine, right?”

“That is so, Father.”

“I think it good. It seems to me that we better then have one of the SP follow Elsa-san too.”

Reiko agreed, and another suggestion came from Laojun. Jin accepted the proposal.

“That might be good. Alright, Like with Reinhardt and the others, let’s get two of them to do it.”

Jin at once built two SP golems. Since he had repeated the work countless of times finishing them was quick.

“Your names are ‘Marron’ and ‘Plum’.”

Before he knew it, about three hours had passed since he left Kaina Village.

“Oops, if I don’t go back soon Hannah will get angry again.”

Jin said and decided to first of all go back. Next to him, Reiko was smiling.

“Ah, onii-chan. It’s already lunchtime, you know.”

The time in Kaina Village was half past eleven. Hannah who had returned from the study group had just come to call Jin for lunch. Barely made it, Jin thought deep down.

“Got it, let’s go.”

And so Jin headed to the dining room of Martha’s house. Elsa and Mine had also returned.

“Although Jin-nii disappeared in the middle of it all, I think today went quite well.”

Elsa told Jin. Mine added,

“Today after meeting and introducing everyone, we explained the purpose of studying and in what kind of situations it is of use.”

Jin listened and nodded.

“I see, that’s good. I’ve got something to talk to you about after lunch.”

Jin said and first started with the lunch in front of him.

“...So, I was thinking of about a trip to Cline Kingdom’s capital city Alban for two days. Elsa, are you familiar with Alban?”

After a simple explanation, Jin tried asking Elsa. That’s because Elsa was the one most knowledgeable about nations in the group.

“Mmh, I’ve never been there so I’m not. Sorry.”

Elsa replied a little dispiritedly. Jin gently spoke to Elsa.

“No, don’t worry about it. If that’s the case then it’s all the more reason to go, isn’t it?”

“Eh?”

“You see, I was thinking of going together with you, Mine, and Hannah.”

Jin said, then Hannah raised her voice in delight.

“Really? Onii-chan, you’re taking me with you?”

“Yeah. It’s just two days though. You’ll probably learn something too. Martha, are you okay with it?”

Jin asked Hannah’s grandmother Martha who replied with a big nod,

“It sounds good. She can see many things she wouldn’t if she stayed in the village.”

She wasn’t at all concerned about just how they would go to Alban. You could probably say that was distinctive of Martha who had known Jin for a long time.

“Yeah! Thanks, granny!”

And at the same time Hannah was very happy.

“Alright, in that case since we’re leaving tomorrow you can spend the night on Kunlun Island. Oh yeah, Martha, would you like to stay overnight too?”

Jin said but Martha shook her head,

“No, I’ll stay in the house. You youngsters go on ahead.”

And she clearly refused. Mine then said,

“Jin-sama, Elsa, I’ll stay here house-sitting with Martha-san. You three, please enjoy yourselves.”

Jin tried convincing the two to come with, but in the end only three people would be going.

“Well then, let’s stay overnight on Kunlun Island and leave tomorrow morning.”

“Yeah!”

“Mh.”

And so, Jin warped to Kunlun Island with Hannah and Elsa. Hannah was again blindfolded. This time, although Hannah didn’t see them, her personal SP ‘Iris’ and ‘Azalea’ followed them.

“Ya~y, it’s onii-chan’s house~! Ah, it’s the maids~! Good day!”

As soon as Hannah got to Kunlun Island she began frolicking around merrily. And once she noticed the maid golems who had previously looked after her a little, she greeted them.

“Elsa, I’ve got something to talk about.”

Jin first left Hannah to frolic and began talking to Elsa about the disguises.

“Even if it’s just a little bit, I think that disguising ourselves will help us avoid trouble in the future.”

“Mm, got it. Is it alright if I just change my hair color?”

“Yeah. Surely, just changing your platinum blonde hair to light brown will greatly change the impression you give? I’ll change mine to brown too. And... what about Hannah?”

Neither Hannah’s name or face were known, so there was no worry about her being recognized. But, after all, just in case they decided to have her hair be similarly brown too.

“Hannah, come over here for a bit.”

Hannah who had been playing with Peridot-100 came along as soon as Jin called out to her.

“Wha~at is it, onii-chan?”

Jin explained the matter to Hannah.

“I was thinking of trying to change the color of our hair in preparation for tomorrow’s trip.”

“Eh?”

As you may have guessed, she didn’t quite understand. Jin then decided to show her in practice.

They went to the washroom and to wet their hair with water that had magical dye already mixed in it. He then used Craft Magic. First was Elsa.

“[Change Color].”

Elsa’s hair turned to a bright tawny color in front of their eyes.

“Wow! Ama~azing! Cool!”

Hannah was so amused she clapped after seeing it. Next was Jin himself. He changed his hair to dark brown.

“Onii-chan didn’t change a lot, did he.”

Since his looks didn’t change much when his hair color went from black to dark brown, Hannah had a weaker reaction than she did to Elsa. But Jin didn’t mind it. Or rather, it wasn’t something to worry about.

“Alright, next is Hannah. May I?”

“Yeah!”

“[Change Color].”

He tried and Hannah’s hair changed to a chestnut brown. Even though it was the same brown color, Elsa’s hair became a subdued light brown, Jin’s became dark brown, and Hannah’s a bright chestnut brown.

Hannah once again got in high spirits once she saw the three of them in the mirror.

“Co~ol! I can’t wait for tomorrow!”

As insurance just in case Hannah got lost, Jin thought he’d present her with a necklace with a Magi Crystal with his Magic Energy inserted in it.

Also, the clothes for going out. Since Jin wasn’t a good designer, he planned to also consult Elsa.

There was no worry about the sizes since there was Reiko who could tell them at glance like back when he had made clothes for Beana and Elsa.

“Alright, then let’s make the clothing.”

Jin said, and indeed as they were girls the faces of both Hannah and Elsa seemed to shine.

“Elsa, please give me some design advice.”

“Mm, Jin-nii.”

And so the three headed to the mansion’s workshop.

Chapter 6

Present

“A light blue one piece dress for Hannah. With a white sash around the waist that you can tie to a bowknot”

Jin was making Hannah’s clothes while following Elsa’s advice.

Something simple typical for commoners. But wanting give it a tinge of elegance he ended up making a one piece dress. Since it was spring the sleeves were kept short.

The cloth used was Magi Silk. It was light and had a good texture.

“Hmmh, onii-chan, I want an apron too.”

Hannah asked and so instead of a sash he decide to make a white apron with wide cords.

“Wo~w, amazing!”

The clothes were made right before her eyes. Hannah kept getting more and more high-spirited.

“Okay, I’m done. Want to try them on?”

Jin asked, then Hannah tossed her old clothes off on the spot.

“Yeah!”

She replied with a beaming smile.

“Wow, it feels kind of nice.”

Hannah was a little bewildered by the feeling of the clothes that was so different compared to the linen clothes she had been wearing until now, but then she took a look at herself in the mirror and,

“Woow, is this me? Onii-chan, thanks!”

She said, jumping with joy.

Next was Elsa's clothes.

“The chartreuse green dress suited you well, didn't it Elsa?”

Jin said and Elsa nodded.

“Mm. I like that color.”

They then decided on a simple A-line one piece dress made similarly out of Magi Silk. The design was the same as that of Hannah's clothes.

Commoners didn't wear clothing with too elaborate designs. Also decorations like lace or ribbons were mostly not used.

Incidentally, the length of both their skirts was to their knees. For socks they both wore white ones that reached to their ankles.

“Next is shoes, I guess.”

He made Mohican style shoes out of magical beast leather. They were dark brown. These too were common.

And like this both Elsa and Hannah ended up wearing similar simple outfits. The only difference was that Hannah was wearing an apron.

However, both the Magi Silk and the magical beast leather used were both rare materials. Although they looked usual at a glance, their durability was about five times greater than normal.

As they still had time, Jin decided that this was the perfect chance to make the necklace for Hannah while explaining the process to Elsa.

Hannah also watched although she didn't understand.

"Since it fits with any kind of color, let's use a Magi Quartz."

Magi Quartzes were white or colorless crystals and had a weak light attribute to them. They were even used in Reiko's eyeballs. However, the most important reason Jin chose it was you couldn't distinguish them from regular quartz.

Quartz was a mundane mineral so it wasn't uncommon for commoners to use it, but this was 100 times more valuable. But the difference couldn't be told without the [Analyze] magic.

So that the design wasn't too elaborate he made it a sphere. He decided to attach a Light Silver clasp to it and make a chain out of the same Light Crystal which could be hung from the neck. He made the Light Silver into a slightly duller silver color so it seemed like a cheap product with a crude appearance.

This was because if they carelessly wore expensive-looking jewelry they'd be found suspicious and they might get attacked by someone who wanted it.

Finally Jin inserted his Magic Energy in it so its purpose as a marker for the Magi Radar's search was finished.

"Hannah, here's another gift."

"Wow, I can have this? Onii-chan, thank you!"

Even so, Hannah was filled with great joy because she had witnessed Jin make it just for her.

Hannah immediately hung it from her neck and happily looked at her reflection in the mirror.

"Hannah-chan, you're cute."

Elsa too was watching Hannah while smiling fondly.

Finally Jin told Reiko to bring Lithia's short sword with her.

"Jin-nii, what's this?"

Elsa asked quizzically and Jin replied,

“Oh, this, it’s something of an acquaintance of mine. The other reason I wanted to go to Alban was to return this.”

“Hmmh...”

Elsa’s eyes seemed a little bit sad as she stared at the short sword. Jin had an idea as for the reason.

“Elsa, are you by any chance missing the dagger?”

It was something Jin had once given Elsa as her birthday present. She had left it behind her together with the status of a noble when she had rejected the engagement arranged against her wishes.

“...Mm. Just a bit since it was something I got from Jin-nii.”

Elsa replied confirming that she was indeed a little sad. Then,

“In that case, I’ll give you something appropriate for who you are now.”

Jin said.

“Like what?”

Elsa was very interested.

“Since commoners probably don’t carry swords, something like a knife.”

“A knife, mh-hm, that’s alright.”

Elsa seemed to understand. Then Hannah who had been running around in front of the mirror until now came.

“Onii-chan and onee-chan, what are you doing?”

“Hmm, I was thinking I’d make a present for Elsa this time.”

Jin replied. Hearing that, Hannah looked very interested.

“Well, just watch. Elsa too, watch carefully.”

Jin said and prepared the Light Silver.

“[Forming]. [Forming]. [Forming].”

He used [Forming] repeatedly. What Jin made was a so-called folding knife.

In his work he had used an electrician’s knife and sometimes used a Japanese style folding knife.

As is there was no locking mechanism for it so he added a simple one.

“It looks interesting.”

Apparently this world had no folding knives like this one. Most of them were the sheath knife type which were kept in a sheath for safekeeping.

A Light Silver blade and a handle. Since just that was unexciting, he decorated it with a Sham Dragon’s horn and embedded small Magi Crystals in it.

These Magi Crystals too should work as markers for the Magi Radar.

“Alright, it’s done.”

After opening and closing the knife multiple times to confirm it works,

“Elsa, here’s another present.”

Jin said and handed it to Elsa. Although it was a bladed tool since they were now siblings, albeit adoptive ones, there shouldn’t be a problem.

“Thanks, Jin-nii.”

As she had been watching it get made, Elsa immediately tried opening and closing it. She then smiled sweetly and told Jin her impressions.

“This is interesting. Convenient.”

“Haha, as long as it pleases you.”

Jin smiled too.

“Elsa onee-chan got a present from onii-chan too, we’re the same!”

Hannah was in a good mood as always.

And like that the outside got darker. This was because Kunlun Island was about an hour ahead of Kaina Village.

“Well then, how about we have a meal?”

Jin said and left the workshop. He washed his hands in the washroom where Hannah and Elsa followed his lead and washed their hands too.

In the dining hall, Peridot and Topaz had done the dinner preparations.

“Wah, what’s this?”

Jin had given directions for tonight’s menu in advance.

Ground mountain deer meat had been mixed with wheat flour into a paste and fried. Topopoes had been boiled, mashed, mixed with corn and a little bit of meat, covered with wheat flour in beaten eggs, and breadcrumbs sprinkled on top of it before frying it in oil.

In other words, hamburger meat and croquettes.

Since there was no Worcestershire sauce they gave a shot at a homemade version, and in the end now was its first unveiling after finally making something acceptable. (Although the one who went through the trouble of making it wasn’t Jin but Peridot on Hourai Island.)

“Wow, it’s delicious!”

“Mm, this, could it be made out of Topopoes?”

Hannah enjoyed the hamburger meat and Elsa who had a refined palate saw through the croquettes’ ingredients.

“I didn’t know that Topopoes can be this sweet.”

She was eating them in a manner from which it wasn’t at all apparent that she was afraid of Topopoes.

After the meal they spent the time talking with Hannah about the journey Jin and Elsa had made.

“And then, Jin-nii made kites and flew it with the children.”

“Huuh, I wish you’d make one now.”

“Ah, alright. I suppose kite-flying could be popularized in Kaina Village too.”

That night Hannah and Elsa were in the same room.

“Wow, the tatami smells nice.”

Since Hannah too seemed to be fond of the smell of the tatami, or rather the smell of soft rush, Jin was wondering if it couldn’t be cultivated in Kaina Village too.

“Well then, good night.”

“Good night, onii-chan.”

“Good night, Jin-nii.”

They ended up going to bed relatively late, but Hannah was so hyped it seemed she couldn’t fall asleep.



“We couldn’t leave today either...”

“That is unfortunate.”

Tonight too, Laojun heard Reinhardt’s regular report on behalf of Jin.

Chapter 7

Capital City Alban

After breakfast on the next day, the 27th, Jin's group departed towards Alban.

A base had been established at some ruins nearby that Spica-7 of the Quinta who was responsible for the whole area had found.

Of course a Warp Gate had been set up there too, so using it they could arrive there at once.

This time too just in case Hannah eyes were blindfolded before they warped. The SP were also following after them although they couldn't be seen.

“I welcome you, Chief, Sister. And Elsa-san and Hannah-chan too.”

Spica-7 came to greet them. She was just about the same body shape as Elsa. Although her chest was a bit larger.

Her bob cut hair was similarly brown as that of Jin's and the others. Her eyes had been made gray. She was wearing brown linen clothes fitting for commoners.

“Ah, thanks.”

Jin thanked her for coming to greet them, then Hannah who had just taken the blindfold off asked,

“Onii-chan, who's this?”

“Oh, Reiko's younger sister, I suppose. Although she looks larger than Reiko.”

Jin explained and Hannah made a complex expression of not being sure if she understood.

“It’s a little sudden, but we came to see the sights at Cline Kingdom’s capital Alban. Although I’ve also got the goal of returning this sword.”

“Please let me help, Chief. I am acquainted with the area.”

Spica-7 replied and Jin said to her,

“Please stop calling me Chief now. Don’t call Reiko Sister either. Right, just call me Jin and Reiko Reiko. Don’t add ‘-sama’ afterwards either.”

“I understand, Jin-san.”

“Mmh, that’s good. Alright, what should we call you?”

“In this town I’m called Virgo.”

“Alright, Virgo. Well then, please show us the way.”

They left the ruins. The weather had been clear at Kunlun Island but here it was slightly cloudy. Jin put on the half coat that signified him being an Honorary Magi Craftsman of Egelia Kingdom that he had brought with him.

It looked like the ruins were protected by a barrier, as when they went out they felt a slightly uncomfortable feeling. It was a rather powerful barrier.

The ruins were surrounded by a small forest where a simple barrier to make one lose their sense of direction had been spread out too. Spica-7 seemed to have been rather careful.

After walking some ten minutes the capital city Alban came to sight.

This too was a Fort City with walls about eight meters in height. Although they were shorter than Egelia Kingdom’s capital Asunto’s walls which were ten meters high, the stone walls still gave off a dignified feeling.

As it had been half past eight when they left Kunlun Island, here in Alban where the time difference was about an hour and a half it was just past seven. The gates seemed to be simply left open.

“Is there an inspection or something when entering?”

“Yes. It has already calmed down, but since there was a dispute with Frantz Kingdom it’s necessary to present identification papers or something equivalent. In Jin-san’s case I think the proof of being an Honorary Magi Craftsman is enough.”

Jin thought it was good he put it on just in case.

“What about Hannah and Elsa?”

“Hannah-chan is small so I think she could pass as Jin-san’s sister. Elsa-san’s matter is more complicated, isn’t it. But if there was some proof of you being related it would be simple.”

When told so, Jin remembered how once in Port Rock he got verified as a Magi Craftsman.””

“Elsa’s also become able to use [Forming] pretty well, hasn’t she? Let’s go with that.”

Jin said, then felt around his pockets just in case to check if he had any materials with him. And he found some Light Silver scraps. They were probably remnants of when he built a carriage back at Egelia Kingdom.

He had probably put the half coat on and the remaining scraps in a suitable pocket back when he took the carriage for a test drive. They were small, but there was enough to make a pen just like the one from earlier.

“Alright, if you’re asked to prove your identity then let them see you make a pen out of this.”

“Mm.”

Jin now felt relieved. Reiko disappeared using [Stealth].

The group then headed towards the open gates.

“Hey Virgo, you’re as pretty today as ever.”

“Thank you, keep up the good work.”

Just when Jin was thinking whether Spica-7=Virgo needed ID papers or something, she was admitted in since the guard seemed to be an acquaintance.

“Who are they?”

“Well, this is my acquaintance Magi Craftsman Jin-san and his sisters.”

Jin and the others quickly bowed their heads.

“Huh, is that so. Just in case, have you got anything to prove that?”

Since Virgo was an acquaintance, the guard seemed to be treating them comparatively courteously. On the other side another guard was rigorously checking a man that seemed to be a trader.

“I’m an Honorary Magi Craftsman of Egelia Kingdom.”

Jin said and showed the badge on his left breast.

“If that’s not enough then...”

Jin was about to take out the Mithril plate that had the certificate carved on it, but the guard stopped him and said,

“No, that’s enough. How about this little lady?”

“I’m onii-chan’s sister!”

Hannah replied cheerfully.

“Alright, got it. And this young lady?... She’s also a beauty, huh.”

Maybe because of the guard’s light personality, he added his opinion after seeing Elsa.

“I’m Jin-nii’s sister. I’ll prove it with this.”

Elsa said and first made sure to show the Light Silver in her hand to the guard then,

“[Forming].”

She formed a pen using Craft Magic. The guard was surprised by the speed of the work.

“T-that’s amazing. I understand, go on in. Here’s your temporary passes.”

He said and presented them with three wooden tokens.

“If you hold on to these you can prove that you’ve been properly inspected at the gate.”

Jin, Elsa, and Hannah accepted them.

“Please return them when you leave. If you don’t carry them then you may be treated as suspicious.”

“I understand. Thank you very much.”

Jin said and the group passed through the gates. Finally they were inside Alban.

“That went smoothly, didn’t it Jin-san?”

“Yeah. Virgo, are you close friends with that guard?”

The guard seemed friendly so Jin tried asking.

“Yes. He’s called Bart, and despite how he seems he’s about to become a knight, you know? He’s got an easy personality as you can tell, and whenever he’s got spare time he comes to talk with me on his own volition and leaks out all sorts of information so he’s very convenient.”

“I—I see...”

Jin felt a weird sense of admiration of how before he knew it, even the Quinta had become rather resolute.

“Well then, first I’d like to return the sword. Reiko, show yourself.”

Between two buildings, in a place where no one saw Jin called out to Reiko.

“Yes, Father.”

She then handed the sword she was carrying to Jin. Since it had been wrapped in cloth so that you couldn't tell it was a sword carrying it around should be fine, he thought.

“Alright. Virgo, do you know where the Fahlheit house is?”

But apparently she didn't know as,

“I do not, my apologies.”

She said and shook her head.

“No, it's fine if you don't know. I'll try asking someone.... For now, do you know if there's an area where knights, baronets, or lesser nobles live?”

“Yes, I do know where that is.”

“Alright.... Hannah, Elsa, what do you want to do? I'll go return the sword, but you don't have to force yourselves to come along, you can go off on your own if you'd like.”

Jin tried asking, but the two shook their heads.

“I'm fine with being with onii-chan!”

“Me too. We came here together so let's move together, shall we not?”

“Got it. Well, let's go together then.”

And so, now including Reiko who had become visible the five walked together on the main street of Alban. Both sides of the street were lined with stone buildings two or three storeys high.

There were lot of buildings which had the first floors serves as shops too. Jin thought they'd go look through them at ease later.

After walking straight down the main street for about ten minutes they arrived at an intersection in the middle of which was a huge sundial. There they turned right

towards the eastern area.

Immediately after making the turn there were a lot of large buildings, but as they walked gradually the size of the buildings went down.

“Around here are the houses of the Ritters”

Most of them were two-storey houses with small gardens. From outside the land seemed to be divided into lots of about 20 *tsubo* each. Considering that Alban’s shape was a square with edges two kilometers long these were probably on the larger side.

Far from there being little pedestrian traffic, there was no one else but Jin’s group walking there, so even if he asked where Lithia’s house was no one could tell.

“Well then, what should we do?”

Jin though, and then a person running at the front came to sight.

“Ah, that’s good, let’s try asking them.”

They then waited for the person to come closer. The person in question seemed to be a young woman.

Chapter 8

Gloria Ohlstat

Is she training, Jin thought as the woman with short light brown hair ran towards their group from the other end of the street.

She was in an outfit that looked like it was easy to move in.

She had grey pants. They looked comfortable and very easy to move in indeed. Her top was a white T-shirt with sleeves tailored similarly to raglan sleeves. She was wearing short boots.

Just by looking at the color and lustre of the clothes one could see that they were made out of good cloth. The leather of the boots also seemed to be high grade judging from its flexibility.

Once the woman got closer Jin saw that she looked to be in her early 20s. She was tall, slender, and gave the impression of having a toned body without being slim.

Once the woman saw Jin's group she slightly slowed down her running pace.

“Excuse me, could I ask you something?”

Jin called out to the woman.

“What is it?”

She replied and stopped.

“Might you know where the Fahlheit house is?”

“Hmm, the Fahlheit house you say. Yeah, I know. Turn right at the corner over there, it's the second house you'll see.”

The woman told Jin, who bowed his head and thanked her.

“Thank you very much.”

The woman then waved her hand as if it was no problem and,

“What, it was nothing. Incidentally, it seems you’re an Honorary Magi Craftsman of Egelia Kingdom?”

After seeing the half coat Jin was wearing the woman asked to confirm.

“Yes, that’s correct.”

“Hmm, I don’t know what business you’ve got with the Fahlheit house but the head of the family Nicholas and his daughter Lithia are both away, you know? Only they lady and her maids should be around.”

This was because both Nicholas and Lithia were still at Tetrada. Oh right, Jin thought but didn’t say it aloud.

His primary objective wasn’t to meet with Lithia but to return the sword after all.

“Is that so, then that’ll have to do.”

Jin said. The woman seemed to be pondering something and then asked,

“Could you perhaps be the Magi Craftsman who repaired Lithia’s sword?”

“Eh, um, yes, I believe so.”

Far from just believing so, he had the sword in question with him.

“Ah, I see! My name is Gloria Ohlstat. Right now I’m the vice-captain of the women’s Imperial Guard troops among other things.”

“Oh, I... My name’s Jin.”

Jin also gave his real name. Since he had been recognized as an Honorary Magi Craftsman it seemed like if he tried to poorly deceive her it would spell future trouble.

“Jin-dono, huh. No need to be so humble since you’re from another country and all, just call me Gloria.”

“Thank you very much, Gloria. These girls are my sisters. And she is an acquaintance of mine from here, Virgo. And this is Reiko.”

“Virgo.”

“I’m Hannah!”

“Elsa.”

“Reiko.”

Virgo greeted her normally, and Hannah energetically. Elsa pinched her skirt lightly and did a so-called curtsy. Seeing Elsa’s greeting, Gloria looked a bit impressed.

“Huh, you sure know your manners, Elsa-dono. It’s as if you were a noble’s daughter.”

It was just natural with her originally being a viscount’s daughter, but Elsa still blushed a little when praised. Finally, Reiko’s greeting was with a small nod of the head.

“Jin-dono, what is it that you came to this country for, I wonder? Since Celuroa Kingdom is between our country and Egelia Kingdom traveling surely isn’t easy? Not to mention right now in these times of war.”

The battle with the Unifiers was on the 23rd, and the Unifiers became Nostalgia on the 24th. And today was 27th. It seemed like enough information hadn’t arrived here yet.

“Well, to broaden my horizons, should I say?”

Jin gave a noncommittal answer. Gloria seemed to more or less realize it,

“Hmm, oh well. I don’t know what business you have with the Fahlheit house, but once that’s over with, I wonder if you could pay me a visit? My house is over there.”

She said and pointed at a largish house behind Jin.

“I’m off duty today, you see. Just now I returned from my habitual morning training. So could you please come visit after I’ve finished dressing myself, let’s say at around eight o’clock?”

Right now the time was probably around half past seven. No matter how Jin looked at it there wasn't a lot of time until eight o'clock. Maybe the thought was apparent from his expression as,

"Haha, a knight doesn't spend time on eating or dressing. Twenty minutes is enough to do anything necessary. So, I'll be waiting."

Gloria said, then without even waiting for Jin's reply opened the door to her house and disappeared inside it.

"Sigh, she's a little pushy, isn't she. Virgo, do you know her?"

Jin let out a sigh and asked with a strained smile.

"Just the name. Just like she said, she is the vice-captain of the women's Imperial Guard troops. She's from a Baron's house, and of course is a Ritter."

Since knighthood was a social status rather than a title, it was enough to call her a knight from a Baron's house.

"As she's rather strong, I've heard she also serves as the instructor for the female knights."

"Ah, that's why she knows Lithia, huh."

Jin's guess was on point.

"Well then, shall we first get the errand done with?"

Jin said began to walk towards the house that was pointed to them. Hannah and the others followed.

"Reiko, could it be that you and Laojun too knew that Lithia hadn't returned yet?"

While walking, Jin spoke about what he was thinking of. Reiko nodded.

"Yes. However, since we thought that if Father were to hand the sword over to Lithia-san directly she'd wonder why you had the sword she had lost at Tetrada, so me and Laojun decided to stay quiet."

Indeed, Jin thought after hearing that. It would be very bad if the connection between Jin and Machina was known.

Knowing that Reiko and Laojun had stayed silent for Jin's sake, he reflected on his own thoughtlessness...

Simultaneously he felt happy knowing that instead of blindly obeying him Reiko and Laojin judged on their own what was the best when working for him.

Well, had he been told beforehand he probably would've obeyed them, Jin thought, but didn't say a word since him not doing that wasn't completely unthinkable.

The second house around the corner. Indeed, the gates had 'Fahlheit' carved on them with small letters.

"This is it."

After verifying the house Jin handed the sword over to Virgo.

"Please tell them that a person called Machina kept hold of it."

He instructed.

Virgo used the knocker attached to the door. After a while the door opened.

"Hello, who might you be?"

A woman past her middle age who appeared to be a maid showed up.

"Ah, this is the Fahlheit house, am I correct?"

"Yes, that is the case."

"Even though she's not around, I've got something here for Miss Lithia that a person called Machina held onto. Could you hand this to her once she's back?"

Virgo said and presented the sword wrapped in a cloth. The maid accepted it without any questions

“I’ll be going then.”

Virgo said and turned back. She had a feeling that the maid asked for her name from behind but she left without minding her.

“Well then, now the most important errand is done.”

But there was still some time until eight o’clock.

“Father, are we going to that woman’s house?”

Reiko asked.

“Well, I don’t know what she wants to talk to me about, but I feel like there’ll be future trouble if we brush off the vice-captain of the women’s Imperial Guard troops from a Baron’s house.”

“Indeed. There’s a lot of nobles like that.”

As Elsa said so too, Reiko had no further objections.

“Well? What’ll you do? Hannah and Elsa, you don’t have to come along with me.”

But Hannah and Elsa said,

“I said it earlier. Since we came here together, let’s move together”

“I’m fine being with onii-chan.”

And like earlier, the two declared they’ll be with Jin.

“Got it. Let’s go together then. Right, also, thanks for your help, Virgo. If your identity gets revealed from prolonged contact it’ll be troublesome, so you can stay behind now.”

If she was needed for everything she could be contacted through her internal ManaCom.

“Yes, I understand. Please excuse me then. If you need me for anything, please call me at any time.”

Virgo said, bowed, and left.

“Well then, shall we go after spending some time taking a look around there?”

And so they decided to go around the district of the lesser nobles.

Jin’s impression was that they were like ready-built houses. They had small gardens of a several *tsubo* and in the middle of them were two-storey houses.

All the various gardens had their own styles, one was just a lawn, another had lots of flowers, yet another had fruit trees planted in it, and one was dreary with uncovered soil, and so on.

Jin was surprised that many of the buildings had pumps installed.

On the other hand,

“Wow, how pretty! Oh, those flowers look like Kherries! Ah, is that a pump?”

Hannah kept running around merrily as if everything she saw was unusual. Seeing Hannah like that, Jin thought it was good that he brought her with him.

Most of the houses were made of stone. There was a lot of granite. Occasionally a wooden house was mixed in too.

They went around and returned to the central intersection where the sundial was nearly pointing at eight o’clock.

“Ah, we’re just in time. Let’s try going to Gloria’s house then, shall we?”

They walked for about five minutes from the intersection. Then they were at Gloria’s house.

They got in front of the house where an aging man who appeared to be a butler was standing.

“Welcome. The young lady is waiting. Please come in.”

He said and opened the door to the hallway.

“Ah, thank you for having us.”

The house was tidy and well-organized.

“Over here, please.”

The butler guided Jin and the others to a parlour-ish room at the back of the first floor.

“Jin-dono and your sisters, welcome.”

There Gloria who had tidied her appearance in order was waiting.

Her blouse moderately decorated with lace and such showed quite a bit of her bulging breasts, and befitting a knight’s dress the cord where her short sword was hung from was wedged diagonally in her cleavage.

The riding pants she was wearing were dyed a refined purplish gray and had a subdued sheen to them.

Her light brown hair had also been tidied up prettily and in one point a golden hair clip accented it well.

But most of all what caught Jin’s eye were the dozens of swords hanging on display on the wall behind her.

“It was an honour to be invited.”

As the oldest of them, Jin gave greetings for the group. But Gloria told him,

“Ahh, I told you earlier, you’re a traveler from a foreign country. I don’t mind you being less formal. I’m also speaking in a tone like this, see?”

Maybe related to her work as a knight, she had a manly way of talking. The butler knit his brows a little but said nothing.

She told them to sit down. Jin’s group sat and,

“First, please relax and have some tea.”

Gloria said and ordered the butler to prepare some tea and tea cakes.

Speaking of, the tea that was usually drunk in Cline Kingdom was brewed of the same tea plant as the one Kaina Village gathered the leaves of.

The familiar taste relaxed Jin, Elsa, and Hannah. But Reiko didn't drink.

“Hm, what's wrong? The lady over there... Reiko-chan, was it? You're not drinking?”

Jin was prepared for this beforehand so he replied honestly.

“Reiko's an Automata so she doesn't need to eat.”

Hearing that, Gloria's eyes went wide.

“W-what? An Automata?... What amazing workmanship! Indeed something only an Honorary Magi Craftsman could make!”

Gloria began raining praise on Jin after being surprised when she learned Reiko was an Automata. But Jin was more interested in the swords on the wall behind her.

Chapter 9

The Pitiable Beauty and the Blacksmith

Gloria noticed that Jin's eyes were fixed on the wall behind her.

"Hm? Ah, this collection is a hobby of mine."

She said.

"Although they aren't of any practical use, they're in good condition for decoration."

But Jin kept looking at the wall, or rather the swords on it.

"Is something wrong, Jin-dono?"

Gloria seemed puzzled as she asked, then Jin finally withdrew his gaze and said,

"No, it's quite the collection, very helpful as a reference."

"A reference?"

Gloria said, then seemed to suddenly understand as she clapped her hands together.

"I see! So Jin-dono's got an interest in swords! The swords on the wall are mostly for ceremonial use, but they still could be used in practice to a point. The one on the top right is a replica of the swords used by knights of a kingdom that existed 150 years ago and that's why it's got that rather different curvature to it compared to modern swords. The curve comes into play when slashing things with it, but since making it requires some skill the replica was made by casting instead of forging. You'd think that the one below that that's made of not even Mithril but silver would be just for decoration but by loading it with magic it can be of effective use on top of having a design which I find pleasing. The one below that was bought from Leonard Kingdom and it broadens towards the tip, so I think it's convenient for hacking due to its weight. The bottommost one is the newest one I've got: it's the standard sword used by the magi knight troop, and then the topmost one on the middle is..."

Jin was a little put off by her starting to go on and on without ceasing.

(Whoa...)

“She sort of resembles Rai-nii.”

Elsa whispered. Hannah wasn’t listening from the start. She was eating the confection brought together with the tea. Reiko’s interest was zero to begin with.

(A beauty’s a beauty, but she’s a pitiable one, isn’t she...)

While holding thoughts like that, Jin half-ignored her.

“...And that’s the short of it if you’re interested in the swords. Now let’s talk about the reason I invited you here.”

Gloria said after talking for a while, then drank her tea in one gulp to relieve her parched throat and,

“Could I ask you make a sword for me too?”

She asked.

“A sword, for you?”

“Yes. Of course, not for decorating this wall. As a matter of fact, the other day my favorite sword finally broke. I do have many spare swords, but all of them are lacking.”

She then looked Jin right in the eye and,

“I had Lithia show me her sword and it was a good piece of work. I most certainly would like you to make one for me, how about it?”

She said to finish, then lightly bowed her head.

“Onii-chan, shouldn’t you make one?”

Hannah said after seeing Gloria’s act.

“Oh, Hannah-chan, wasn’t it? Thank you. Jin-dono, could you?”

“Jin-nii, she’s going this far to ask.”

Even Elsa said so, so Jin gave in.

“Making it is no problem, but what about the materials?”

But there was the problem of not having materials.

“Ah, for that I’ve got an acquaintance who’s a blacksmith so I’m sure we’ll figure something out.”

“Is that so...”

Well, if there were materials he had no particular objections against making it. Even more so if Elsa and Hannah were fine with it. It was just that he had purposefully come to Alban for sightseeing, is what Jin was thinking.

“Well then, let’s go make it at once.”

Since he had limited time it was better to do it fast.

“Oh, I’m glad to hear that! Alright, let’s go now!”

Gloria said and stood up. But then she suddenly looked towards Hannah and said,

“Oh, how about your sisters? I don’t mind if they stay here.”

It seemed to be her way of taking them into consideration.

“I’m fine being with onii-chan.”

“I’ll go with Jin-nii.”

The two said so Gloria nodded and they all ended up going.

They left Gloria’s house and walked straight in the direction of the wall for some ten minutes. Right next to the wall was the workshop of the blacksmith.

Since a blacksmith's work was noisy and also dealt with fire, the place was some distance away from the residential areas.

"That's it. Properly speaking the shop's owner could even work exclusively for the kingdom's chivalric order but he's a little eccentric. He said that his job is to make tools for commoners and so he took up residence here."

While Gloria explained, a man with a sturdy body came out of the building and said,

"Don't just call people eccentric or whatever... Oh, it was you, missy."

He looked to be over middle aged and was about as tall as Jin. However, his arms were unsuitably thick for his body.

"Duston, I'm already 23. Surely I'm no longer a missy."

The past middle aged blacksmith Duston laughed and said,

"Whaat, from my viewpoint you're still a missy. So, what's the business today?"

"Um, as a matter of fact my favorite sword broke."

After Gloria got that far Duston interrupted her,

"No no no. I've already decided I don't make weapons. This is the only request from you I won't listen to, missy."

He said and shook his head. However, Gloria said to cover that up,

"No, I wasn't asking you to make it Duston. I'd just like you to provide the materials."

Duston then began to frown.

"Hmmh? Well, if it's only that then since it's for no one other than you then I'll do it, missus. But who are you planning on asking to make it?"

"Ah, this here Jin-dono."

"Whaat? As if someone as skinny as him could swing a hammer!"

Since Reiko seemed to be about to jump out after hearing that, Jin immediately put his hand on her head. Reiko then gave up, however.

“Onii-chan’s awesome!”

Hannah couldn’t stay silent.

“M-missy?”

As you’d expect, not even the stubborn Duston could yell back at a girl young enough to be his granddaughter.

“Onii-chan can make anything! Even a pump, a trailer, and Mint!”

Hannah said and glared at him. But Duston seemed to have caught interest in one of the words Hannah said.

“M-missy, what did you just say? Didn’t you say ‘pump’?”

“I did! Onii-chan asked if drawing water was difficult and made a pump!”

“What the...”

Duston stared at Jin with a surprised look on his face. That was also what Gloria was feeling. She too looked as surprised as Duston.

“T-the pump was made by Jin-dono!? I never heard this before, that’s amazing!”

“Y-yes, well.”

Jin who was the topic of the conversation couldn’t keep up with the tense atmosphere and didn’t really know how to react though.

“...Well, I can understand when I think of how Magi Craftsmen are capable of all sorts of amazing things.”

Duston said subduedly after calming down and inviting the group inside to sit on some chairs that were in the corner.

“From the start I wanted to make tools and Magi Tools, you see. It’s enjoyable to make tools that are helpful for everyone, isn’t it?”

Jin said with a quiet tone. That was probably what he really was thinking after having so many fight scenes recently.

“Ooh, you understand it even though you’re so young! That’s right, the commoner’s daily lives come first!”

After hearing Jin’s line Duston seemed to once again become high-spirited.

“That’s why I make knives or spoons or kitchen knives and such!”

“Ah, Duston, sorry but they don’t really have much time either so if you could get the materials soon that’d be a great help...”

Thinking that if she stayed quiet the task would never get finished, Gloria spoke out. Although in reality she too wanted to hear more from Jin who was considered the inventor of the pump.

“Mph, ah, I suppose. Is there anything you want? I say, but it’s not like my place has Adamantite or Mithril or such?”

Jin was the one who replied.

“Iron will do. After that, if it’s alright please let us watch you work for a while.”

“Hm? I’ve got plenty of iron so that’s fine. But watching me, well, I don’t mind but is watching so interesting?”

Duston said, but Jin then turned to look at Elsa and Hannah and said,

“Elsa, it’s good for you to see the way edged tools are made without magic. And Hannah, this mister’s got the same occupation as your Grandfather did.”

“Mm. If you say so, Jin-nii.”

“Eh? The same as grandpa?”

Elsa nodded, while Hannah stared in puzzlement.

“What, so missy’s grandfather also was a blacksmith? Great, be sure to watch.”

Duston said and stood up. He lit up the furnace. The furnace seemed to work with magic, as there was no coal or charcoal to be found.

“I don’t make my own iron. I make tools out of iron I’ve bought.”

While talking he gripped a suitably large ingot with pliers and heated it up in the furnace.

Once it had become red he took it out, placed it on top of an anvil, then hit it with a hammer to shape it.

If it became cold and stiff the quality of the work would become worse, so mid-way he once again heated it up in the furnace.

“Co~ol, it’s becoming shaped like a kitchen knife.”

Hannah raised her voice in astonishment. Duston kept shaping the iron into a kitchen knife using just the hammer.

Once it was roughly the shape of a knife he kept working on the shape with a chisel and a file

A kitchen knife in the style of a chef’s knife was created.

“This will be quenched next. Sorry, but the method’s a secret so I can’t let you see it... Is what I’d like to say but I don’t mind you watching from a distance.”

When told so, Jin’s group retreated farther to the corner of the workshop.

They watched from afar as Duston grasped the kitchen knife with pliers and inserted it in the furnace.

This time he stared at it carefully and when he estimated that the knife had turned orange he took it out and immersed it in water at one go.

There was a hisssssing sound and steam rose up. Even at a distance it was intense.

Elsa and Hannah who saw it for the first time seemed a little surprised.

“Now then, with this the quenching is complete. Finally comes tempering.”

Duston muttered an explanation and once again gripped the kitchen knife with the pliers.

This time he warmed it up above the furnace without putting it inside. He kept it like that for a while then took it away from the furnace.

“It’s done.”

After waiting for the metal to cool and using the file to clean up the surface, he sharpened it with a whetstone. Finally he added a handle.

In approximately one hour he had finished making the knife.

Chapter 10

Jin's Skill

“Thank you very much. It was helpful.”

Jin thanked Duston.

“Hannah, were you watching? Your grandfather made lots of things just like that.”

“Yep, I saw. It was very different from how onii-chan does it.”

Jin patted Hannah’s head and said,

“Yeah, I on the other hand am not capable of working like that.”

Then he asked Elsa,

“So, what are your thoughts?”

Elsa replied with a slightly flushed face.

“Mm. I came to understand just how kitchen knives and other edged tools like that are normally used are made. It’ll be useful.”

“Right. Also, the final quenching and tempering is very important for iron and steel.”

Jin explained. Of course, Elsa threw back a question.

“What do you mean?”

“You see, steel is a variety of iron, and when it’s heated until it’s the color of a Citran and rapidly cooled down it becomes harder. That’s quenching.”

“Mm.”

“But if you leave it just like that then it’ll be hard and brittle and will soon break. So to

make it more tenacious it has to be tempered. That can be done by warming it up to the point that droplets of water spilled on it begin skittering around, then letting it slowly cool down."

"Mm, I understand."

"Whether you know this or not has an effect on the quality of the Magi Craft."

Once Jin had explained that far, Duston came nearby with a grim look on his face.

"H-hey, youngster! Who did you hear that secret from? Normally a master teaches that only when you've become qualified, right? Even I was taught it only when I had reached my thirties!"

He seemed to be surprised that Jin who looked like he was less than 20 years old knew this (although Jin was already 21 years old).

"Who, well, my teacher."

"Your teacher's generous, or maybe I should say they're amazing..."

Duston was amazed.

"Hey, onii-chan, show us how you make a kitchen knife too."

"Mm. I also want to see Jin-nii make one."

Encouraged by Hannah and Elsa, Jin turned to Duston while smiling strainedly and asked,

"May I use your workshop?"

"Yeah, go ahead and show me how a Magi Craftsman works."

Duston said and gave his permission.

Jin immediately went to where the iron ingots were.

"[Analyse].... hmm..."

After confirming the quality of the iron, Jin called Elsa over to teach her.

"Elsa, come over here for a bit.... Listen, to examine the composition of this iron you can use [Analyse], but you won't be able to understand substances you're not familiar with. So knowledge is important."

Jin said and after once again using the [Analyse] magic to confirm the composition for himself, he told Elsa to give it a try.

"Mm. [Analyse]."

It went well on the first try, but,

"...I could somehow tell what was iron. But everything else is a mess and I couldn't tell what was what at all..."

Elsa said with a frown.

"Haha, that's natural. Look, [Extraction] copper. [Extraction] silicon. [Extraction] sulfur. [Extraction] phosphorus."

Jin used [Extraction] four times on the large ingot. With it, although the amounts were small, copper, silicon, sulfur, and phosphorus were separated from it. They all were in amounts small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, but considering they were impurities it was an amount that couldn't be disregarded.

"Look, these are the impurities. Each one of them are pure substances, so give a go at using [Analyse] on them."

"Mm. [Analyse].... Ah."

"How is it?"

Elsa looked a little surprised so Jin asked. Elsa blushed and,

"I can kind of recognize copper and sulfur."

Since they both were materials she was kind of familiar with, even Elsa became able to differentiate between them.

“Alright. Since taking too much time would probably be a bother, let’s stop today’s lesson here. Watch me do the rest.”

“Mm.”

Jin ended lecturing Elsa and resumed making the kitchen knife. Behind him it seemed like Duston’s jaw had become disconnected but he didn’t notice it. At the side, Reiko was proudly throwing out her chest.

“[Separation]. [Forming].”

Jin separated a necessary amount of iron using Craft Magic. With the next magic he changed the shape of the iron in his hand into a kitchen knife.

“Alright, let’s have the shape like this I suppose. I’d want to use [Heat Treatment] next but there’s a bit too little carbon for that, huh.”

Jin had checked it and the carbon content was about 0.5 percent. The amount of carbon was the most important component that determined the hardness when quenching, and for a kitchen knife a carbon content of 0.8~1.2 percent was suitable.

“[Carburising].”

He then decided to draw carbon from the carbon dioxide in the air and mix it with the iron. This magic could only mix the carbon with the surface, so he used the [Homogenize] Craft Magic to make the composition uniform.

He repeated this multiple times until the carbon percentage was one. That was suitable.

“Alright, Elsa, pay attention now. [Heat Treatment].”

Since he did it slowly, Elsa was able to perceive the kitchen knife Jin held instantly heating up, rapidly cooling down, then heating up once more and returning back to the normal temperature, all while observing the flow of the Magic Energy.

“Isn’t it hot?”

Elsa asked with worry as, although it was for just an instant, she had sensed the temperature grow until the iron was Citran-colored (orange).

“Yeah, it’s fine. What you perceived was simply the phase change of iron, it’s not like it really went to that temperature. That’s the good thing about Craft Magic.”

Jin said and handed the kitchen knife to Elsa. She physically felt that it was indeed not hot.

Behind them Hannah was watching with eyes sparkling, and next to her on top of having his jaw seem dislocated Duston’s eyes were so wide it seemed like they could fall out any moment now.

“Finally let’s make the blade. [Shaping]. Let’s also clean up the surface. [Finish].”

The blackish kitchen knife glittered with silver gray.

“Alright, it’s complete. Duston, do you have a handle for this?...?”

Jin said and turned, and behind him Duston was making an indescribable face.

“Hello. Anyone there, Duston?”

Jin called out to him, and gradually Duston rebooted.

“Y-yes. I was just surprised since this is the first time I’m seeing a Magi Craftsman work. B-but, just wait a minute, what did you do to the ingot!?”

He was apparently talking about the separation of impurities that Jin did.

“Well. There was a bit too much impurities mixed in so I separated them.”

“...You can do even that?...”

Duston gave an impression of slight exhaustion.

“Anyway, a handle, huh. Here’s one of the standard handles I use.”

It was a kitchen knife’s handle made out of hard wood. Since the knife Jin made was nearly the same size as Duston’s, he attached the knife to the handle and it was finished.

Gloria who had been similarly watching Jin's way of working was likewise absentminded until now when she also rebooted.

"Ji-Jin-dono! You're amazing! What Lithia said really wasn't a lie! Could you please make my sword soon too!?"

The pitiable beauty showed her character.

Jin gave a nod and asked,

"Alright. So, what kind of a sword would you like?"

"The official equipment for us female knights is a short sword. A sword with a blade of 50 centimeters and a handle of about 20 centimeters would be preferable."

These short swords were called such to contrast with the long swords used while riding a horse. It didn't mean that the sword was particularly short

"Got it."

Jin said and secured a necessary amount of iron from the ingot from earlier using [Separation]. Since he was familiar with Lithia's sword he already had a rough idea about the general amount needed.

He then used [Forming] and [Carburising] followed by [Heat Treatment], [Shaping], and finally [Finish].

Additionally he applied [Hardening], completing the sword's main body.

Elsa who had watched him work asked a question.

"Jin-nii, why did you use [Carburising] fewer times compared to earlier? And you didn't use [Homogenize]."

"Oh, well spotted. Breaking is the worst case scenario for a sword. An ideal sword doesn't break, bend, and cuts well. To realize this I use composite materials."

Jin explained.

"Composite materials?"

“Yeah. To put it simply, comparatively soft iron is used in the core portions and the edge portions use hard steel. The surfaces are then hardened.”

After Jin told her that, Elsa said she understood and raised her eyes.

“If the core is soft it doesn’t fracture easily. By using [Carburising] on just the surface it becomes difficult to bend. And after hardening it cuts well.”

“You got it.”

Elsa seemed happy and slightly blushed when Jin spoke well of her.

“Y-y-y-you! T-this is the first time I’m hearing about that kind of a manufacturing method! Is it alright to thoughtlessly spread a secret like that?”

Behind them, Duston seemed agitated as he spoke.

“Eh, it’s alright. I borrowed your workshop and even used some of your iron, Duston. Ah, do you have any materials for making the sword’s sheath or the handle?”

Duston was taken aback by Jin’s calm reply and his agitation ended.

“Yeah... Missy, what a guy you brought with you.”

While speaking he pointed at a material shelf in the back.

“You can use whatever you like that’s there.”

Jin then searched the shelf.

He chose heavy leather for the sheath, bronze for the guard, and solid wood for the grip. He quickly shaped and processed these with Craft Magic too, and soon the short sword was completed.

“Gloria, I’ve had you wait for quite a while. Please take a look.”

“Uhm, thank you.”

After accepting the short sword Gloria immediately drew it and tried swinging it lightly.

“How is it? Since the weight can be adjusted a little, please don’t hold back.”

“I see. It feels like the tip is a little heavy.”

Gloria told her impressions to Jin.

“Got it. You can keep holding to it just like you were.... [Forming].”

Jin made the sword taper a little more towards the tip.

“How about now?”

Gloria tried swinging the short sword once more and,

“Mh-hm, this is good! Thank you, Jin-dono!”

She smiled with her whole face and thanked Jin.

Chapter 11

Turmoil After All

Right then it was about lunchtime.

“Alright, let me take care of the lunch.”

Gloria Ohlstat said and invited Jin’s group for lunch. She also invited Duston, but he refused, saying he had a lunch box his wife had made.

“When I was a child, I often went to play at Duston’s workplace and watch him make cutlery.”

Apparently by that time already she was a pitiable beauty.

They stopped by Gloria’s house to drop off her sword and then headed to the main street. The large sun dial showed that it was about 11.45. The foot traffic had increased compared to the morning.

“I’ve got a preferred restaurant.”

Gloria said as took the lead of Jin’s group.

“Here it is.”

The restaurant was on the main street little ways back towards the gate Jin and the others had come from.

Its sign had ‘Crystal Restaurant’ written on it, and while it appeared cramped the inside atmosphere was good.

Since the time was still a bit before 12 o’clock there weren’t many customers either.

“Welcome, Ohlstat-sama.”

Like to a regular customer, the waitress greeted her in a friendly tone.

“Hey, Feo. I brought company with me today. Whatever you recommend for four, please.”

“As you wish.”

The waitress called Feo gave a bow and went to the kitchen to convey the order.

“The lunch here is famously good. Off-duty soldiers and knights also come here often.”

Gloria explained.

“Up until the other day there were continuous battles around Tetrada west of here, but it seems to have stopped now. Yesterday a post horse arrived. It seems that Egelia Kingdom had fought with Celuroa Kingdom but it also seems to have come to an end. That’s news that came by pigeon the day before yesterday.”

“Is it alright to tell us something like that?”

“Eh, it’s fine. You must be worried about the situation of the countries too? I thought I’d tell you as part of my thanks for making the sword for me.”

“Why, thank you very much.”

It was news he was already familiar with, but since she had kindly told him Jin thanked her.

“Sorry to have kept you waiting.”

The food was brought in quite fast.

“They came up with this idea to reduce the types of foods in exchange for careful selection of flavors and reduced cooking time.”

Gloria explained. To put it simply, it was a set meal that changed every day, but reaching that idea in this world could be valued highly. And just as she explained, the taste was rather good too.

The food was freshly baked bread, vegetable soup, dried fish stew, and grilled deer meat. In addition they had Appleles.

It wasn't high cuisine, but being familiar and cheap it was a menu both commoners and lesser nobles could enjoy.

Incidentally, Jin was interested in the bread. It wasn't pure white, but it wasn't whole grain bread either. To be frank, it was exactly the same bread that was eaten in Kaina Village.

"This bread..."

Jin started to say, then Gloria began explaining with an understanding look on her face.

"Ah, it's delicious, right? It's become popular lately. It's made out of wheat flour a rapidly growing company called Raglan Firm is selling."

I thought so, Jin thought. He felt real happiness being of use to society like this.

Hannah wanted to say something, but seemed to be engrossed in the dried fish stew.

"You're very knowledgeable, aren't you."

Jin said, thinking that she was surprisingly well-informed about things despite being a knight.

"What, it's just that the owner's wife is my childhood friend."

Gloria replied. I see, Jin thought after hearing that.



Tea was brought in after lunch.

"So, about the compensation for the sword."

Before drinking the tea Gloria spoke.

"How much would you like me to pay? Name your price, is what I'd like to say but what I can pay has limits..."

Jin turned to Gloria and replied,

“Since the materials didn’t cost anything, it’s fine if you just pay whatever you think the sword is worth.”

Jin honestly didn’t know the market prices of swords and such.

But Gloria muttered that that’s what troubles her the most, and she began pondering. Before long she raised her head as if having come to a decision and took a tiny leather bag from the leather purse on her waist and placed it in front of Jin.

“That’s all I’ve got on hand.”

“Eh?”

Slightly confused, Jin checked the contents of the bag, and inside it there were seven gold coins and 15 silver coins. That was 71,500 Torr. That was about 715,000 yen.

“This is too much.”

Jin said, but Gloria replied without hesitation that even 100,000 Torr wouldn’t be enough for the sword and that haggling would be blasphemous.

Jin felt a little uncomfortable, but then thought of a good line for persuasion.

“For craftsmen as long as what they’ve made is appreciated and taken good care of, it would be fine to even give the product away for free. So I’ll take just this and let’s settle it with that.”

Jin said and took two gold coins out of the bag, then returned the rest to Gloria.

“Take good care of it, or should I say that I’m just happy that I could help.”

Gloria then turned to Jin who said all that, replied with ‘I swear’, and lowered her head.

Once they had drunk the tea that had cooled down a little, the outside became noisy.

“Hm? What’s going on?”

Before Gloria could finish talking, there was a sound of something breaking and

people screaming.

This is no trivial matter, Gloria said and rushed outside. There were knights near the area. Incidentally, the bill appeared to go on her tab.

Jin's group also followed outside to see. Then.

“...Golems?”

“I recognize those. They’re the old type golems of the Unifiers.”

There were three old type golems that had become the base for Gon and Gen, and they were rampaging on the main street.

“What is this!?”

Gloria asked a knight who was next to her.

“Ah, Gloria-sama. I—I don’t know very well myself, but what I can say is that at 12 o’clock those three came out of a wagon and began acting violently.”

Indeed, ahead of the road there was a half-destroyed wagon with three racks that had fallen over.

“Can’t you stop them!?”

“N-no. Our swords can’t make a dent on them. We’ve requested the magi knight troops, but as of yet...”

“This isn’t the time to be talking about that!”

Gloria turned to the direction of the three golems. They had begun destroying the stores along the road. People were running about trying to escape.

A crowd of people rushed out of the destroyed stores. There were also people who turned back when they saw the golems.

Among them was a small child who seemed to have been separated from their parent. The child accidentally fell over in front of the golem.

“That’s bad!”

Without any hesitation, the golem seemed about to trample over the child.

“Reiko! Save that child!”

“Yes.”

Jin ordered. Reiko replied and instantly moved.

Jin’s order was to ‘Save’. To save the child just holding them in her arms and moving away would work, but at this time it would be difficult.

If Reiko was to quickly grab them and move, the child’s delicate body probably couldn’t handle the acceleration. After reaching that conclusion, the action Reiko took was being the shield for the child.

Reiko went on her hands and knees and covered the child to protect them. Then the golem’s foot swooped down on her.

Without time to be doubtful of Reiko who moved there in an instant, the people present saw the golem’s foot land on Reiko who was covering the small child.

Several women closed their eyes as they couldn’t bear to watch Reiko and the child who were about to be crushed in a moment.

But Reiko’s body wasn’t so roughly made as to be crushed by a golem like that.

“Ooh!?”

The eyes of Gloria who hadn’t closed them became wide.

Reiko who took the golem’s foot with her back was undaunted.

“[Wind Blow].”

Then the wind magic spell Elsa cast exploded. Since the golem had raised one of its legs it was easily overturned.

Reiko used the chance to take the child in her arms and got up slowly. She then ran back over to where Jin's group was.

“Father, the child is safe.”

Jin patted the head of Reiko who had carried back the child who was on the point of tears and praised her.

“Well done, Reiko. Your decision-making was good too.”

“Reiko onee-chan, coo~ol!”

Even Hannah praised her, and Reiko smiled broadly. Since the child had scraped their knee, Elsa used healing magic.

“[Heal].”

The bleeding stopped, and the child finally stopped crying.

“Okay, you’re fine now. Does it hurt anywhere else?”

“...No.”

That’s good, Elsa said and returned her focus to the golems.

“[Dig].”

Jin used the earth type magic [Dig] to make the golems fall into a pitfall and sealed their movements.

If Reiko used violence this could be quickly settled, but since he wanted to avoid being conspicuous he had Reiko move to protect the surrounding people.

“[Standstill].”

Jin then turned off a golem whose movements were sealed. In truth, the SP who were hidden using [Stealth] had also secretly provided support.

Jin himself was moving while protected by a [Barrier].

Two golems were deactivated, and one remained. At that moment.

“[Flame Lance].”

Fire magic exploded and the remaining golem was blown away.

Chapter 12

Princess

“Advanced fire magic?”

Pieces of the blown-apart golem rained down.

They bore into the walls of nearby buildings and even some people were hurt by them. There were also people who were burned.

“What are they doing in the middle of the town! Elsa, go check on the injured.”

“Mm.”

Jin rushed to a building. It was greatly cracked and there were parts that seemed like they would collapse any time now.

“[Fusion].”

Jin started repairing the walls with Craft Magic.

For now, it seemed like there was no worry of the walls coming down.

“T-thank you very much...”

On Elsa’s side, the treatment of the injured also seemed to be nearly over.

Jin took a breather and Elsa took another look towards the direction where the magic had come from.

A lone magi knight was there. Numerous knights came from the same direction and they were checking the scene and its surroundings for anyone suspicious.

“Captain!”

Gloria raised her voice, ran over, and scowled a little. The magi knight looked at Gloria

awkwardly.

“S-sorry. Looks like I overdid it a little with the power.”

“Not just little! The citizens also got harmed! You’re always like this, captain! Please learn restraint!”

“But if I ignored them the damage would’ve been greater...”

“I know that! That’s why I said restraint!”

Looking more closely at the person Gloria was chiding, she was a woman who seemed under 30 and was slightly shorter than Gloria. She also had very short hair but hers was vividly red.

Her eyes were such a bright brown that they also looked red, so at a glance she gave the impression that fire-attribute magic was her forte. That said, according to current theory one’s hair color had no relation to one’s strongest attribute.

Her breastplate bulged outwards a lot, the size was as Reinhardt liked them.

“Oh, so you were here too, Gloria? How’s the damage?”

A carriage stopped behind the so-called captain and someone called out from inside. Recognizing the voice, Gloria was surprised and corrected her posture.

“There has been damage to the buildings but temporary repairs seem completed. Few people suffered wounds, but several were hurt by the aftermath of the [Flame Lance]. But thanks to the cooperation of a person who could use healing magic, treatment has been taken care of.”

After Gloria had replied while standing at attention, she pointed to Elsa behind her who had treated the wounded.

“I understand. Let’s give ample compensation to the citizens later. I’ll also have some strict words with Jessica. But settling this incident comes first. Jessica, take command.”

“Yes.”

The captain called Jessica replied with a salute to the command that came from inside the carriage.

In the meanwhile, female knights who seemed to be her underlings arrested three suspicious men who were near the wagon. Apparently these three had moved the carriage here.

Although it was called a wagon, there wasn't a horse connected to it and the men had apparently pulled it by themselves.

"Take them back for questioning. And afterwards come back to pick up those two golems."

Jessica said, and afterwards stepped up towards Jin.

"Due to your efforts the two golems could be captured, thank you. My name is Jessica Norton and I am the captain of Cline Kingdom's female imperial guard knight troops."

"I'm an Honorary Magi Craftsman of Egelia Kingdom, my name is Jin."

"Oh, a visitor from Egelia Kingdom? Is that lady who is treating the people with you?"

She said and looked towards Elsa.

"Yes, she's my little sister. Her name is Elsa. This is my sister Hannah."

Jin said and introduced Hannah.

"Mh-hm, I'll extend the thanks to your sister. So, I've been instructed to tell you that the esteemed person in the carriage would like to thank you personally. Could you please come with me?"

As the captain of the female imperial guard knight troops had called them 'the esteemed person', Jin could have a rough idea of who they were.

"Yes, I understand."

Thinking that if he refused here it would be troublesome in the future, Jin agreed.

"Thank you. Have your sisters come too.... Gloria, you were off-duty today, weren't you."

Enjoy the rest of your day off. See you tomorrow at the royal palace."

"Y-yes."

Being told so by her superior, Gloria cast a sidelong glance towards Jin's group and,

"Well then, Jin-dono, Elsa-dono, and Hannah-dono. I'm sorry that it things got hectic at the end, but goodbye for now. If you need anything, please feel free to come and ask my family "

She said, gave a light bow, and left.

"Come, Jin-dono, over here."

Jessica Norton said and beckoned Jin's group to follow her inside the carriage that was parked at the side of the main street. Once they had a closer look they noticed that the carriage's craftsmanship was remarkably fine.

"Without revealing her exact status, I'll just tell you that she is a noble of this country."

She said, opened the carriage door, and announced,

"Lies-sama, I've brought them."

Then a very lively voice came from inside.

"Ooh, have you now! We are Lieschen Physis Cline!"

"...Eh?"

"The princess of this country?"

"A princess...?"

Her Highness the Princess was there, throwing out Jessica's consideration with her grand introduction.



“...Sigh.”

Jessica was sighing inside the carriage. Next to her was the dark brown haired, blue-eyed princess.

She was wearing what were probably street clothes and that's why they had no frills or other extra decorations attached, but the clothes were still refined so that one could sense that she was of noble birth.

Jin, Elsa, Hannah, and Reiko were sitting in the seats in front of her.

“Don't sigh like that. Don't they say that happiness escapes the body when you do?”

The princess said to soothe Jessica but,

“Whose fault do you think that is...”

She replied with a worn-out voice, then the princess retorted with a mischievous smile.

“Being royalty is not a secret or something to be hidden!”

Jessica then sighed many times more.

“...Sigh.”

“Moving on from the melancholic Jessica, the reason We summoned you here was that for one We wanted to express Our thanks.”

The princess stated to begin with. She looked to be no more than 12 or 13, but she spoke like an adult probably due to her education as royalty.

“Express... your thanks?”

Jin spoke as the representative.

“That’s right. We saw it, that Automata protecting the child and you dropping the two golems into a hole and neutralizing them. And the older one of your sisters helped the wounded by healing them.”

We’ve got a magical eye that can see at a long distance, the princess said and pointed at her right eye.

“Lies-sama! You didn’t have to tell him that!”

She went and spoke of something secret and Jessica flusteredly cautioned her due to her wildness, but it was like talking to a wall as the princess didn’t seem even a bit shy.

“A magical eye... you say?”

A magical eye was literally that, an eye which held Magic Energy. They were said to be extremely rare, something only one in tens of thousands of people had.

In addition their effects varied from seeing through objects, clearly telling true from false through disguises ad camouflage, and there even were charm-type eyes like the former ‘Golden Princess of Destruction’ Elena had had.

Then there eyes like the princess’s that could see into the distance, and so on.

“We had just snuck out of the castle to see the situation around town. There was some kind of a disturbance so we hurried here, and it was at that time that We saw your efforts.”

Speaking elegantly while mixing in things like ‘snuck out’, even this princess was the pitiable type, Jin thought.

She had refined looks not just because she was royalty, and her slightly upturned eyes were clear and her determination was well visible from them. She gave a feeling of elegance, just her mannerisms were very tomboyish.

“We have given Our name, so please introduce yourselves too.”

Being told so, Jin’s group hurriedly introduced themselves.

“Ah, my apologies. My name is Jin. This is my little sister Elsa, and this Hannah, who is also my little sister. And this is Reiko.”

“I’m Elsa.”

“I’m Hannah!”

Elsa stood up, pinched the hem of her skirt and gave a simple bow. Hannah greeted her in a lively manner. Reiko stayed expressionless.

“Ah, We see, so you’re Jin. Egelia Kingdom’s Honorary Magi Craftsman, aren’t you? That is the second reason I summoned you.”

There was a pause, and then Princess Lieschen began talking, this time with a slightly faltering tone.

“Egelia Kingdom’s third prince is called Ernest-sama... or so We hear. Do you know him? If you know then please tell Us. W-what kind of a person is he?”

The princess asked while blushing a little. Oh my, Jin thought as he replied.

“Let’s see, if I recall correctly he just turned 13.”

“H-hmm, so he’s a year older than We.”

“He’s rather intelligent and likes golems.”

“...Huh, we would get along well.”

“He’s also considerate and watchful towards his subordinates.”

“Kind, is he?”

“Your Highness, could it be that this is about marriage proposal or something?”

“Yes, that’s... W-whawhawha-what are you saying?!”

Midway to confirming what Jin asked the princess turned bright red and panicked. It was appropriate for her age.

“No, it’s just that marriage between members of royalty isn’t uncommon, and you wanted to know about a prince in a faraway country, so.”

At strange times, Jin could be quick on the uptake.

“Uh, we-well. We’re just sounding things out at the moment though.”

The princess replied while hanging her head down. It was a bit cute.

“I think he’s a good person. However, I don’t myself understand relations between men and women.”

Jin finished talking and the princess nodded.

“M-mhm. You’ve been very helpful. Thank you.... There’s one more thing, it’s about an Automata We would like you to repair.”

Chapter 13

The Blue-haired Automata

“An Automata you’d like me to repair?”

“That’s right. It’s shameful, but Our Cline Kingdom doesn’t have a satisfactory Magi Craftsman. Everyone gave up.”

Princess Lieschen said regretfully.

“We heard talk that some distant village had an excellent Magi Craftsman, but thanks to a certain idiot called Earl Walter they ran away.”

“Eh?”

It was a familiar story.

“Hm? So you’ve heard of it too.... Really, all those old nobles, they’re just absorbed in protecting their own interests and don’t think of the country’s or the people’s benefits at all.”

While talking the princess looked over at Jessica next to her and continued,

“Jessica’s also a new noble. Good grief, there are sometimes times We think the whole lot of the nobles should be replaced.”

“Your Highness, that’s a little...”

Jessica softly interrupted her.

“Mhm, you’re right. We shouldn’t have the guests from another country listen to Our grumblings.... And so, Jin, We would like you to accompany us to the royal palace.”

Refusal no longer seemed to be an option. Jin gave up and accepted. However,

“If there’s no materials then I can’t repair whatever it is I need to repair though.”

He told the princess before he forgot. She then replied with a serious look on her face,

“Mh-hm... Is there anything you need?”

Jin explained,

“It depends on what’s broken. I won’t know before I examine it.”

At any rate first came the examination so the carriage the group had got onto moved. On both sides of it four Imperial Guard knights followed.

The princess, Jessica, Jin, Elsa, Hannah, and Reiko were on board yet there was extra room.

That was only natural as the carriage was drawn by four horses. However, the ride wasn’t very comfortable. But the road being paved was a big help. Mostly to Jin.

The carriage headed to the building all the way at the end of the main road, the royal palace.

“Is it fine to just take us along?”

Jin asked and Jessica answered,

“Although we’re heading towards the royal palace, despite it being part of it where we’re going is more like an imperial villa, so the security and management is loose compared to the main palace. Not to mention that the check will be simple since this carriage is exclusively for the royalty.”

Princess Lieschen then gave additional explanation.

“We are the third princess. We have two elder brothers and two elder sisters. Moreover, a princess who isn’t an adult has no authority to inherit the throne. So even though We’re royalty We’re not treated so seriously.”

Even Prince Ernest was born to a mistress, Jin remembered. Somehow it seemed like royalty like this felt like they were of better quality, Jin thought but of course didn’t say it.

The so-called imperial villa was to the left of the royal castle when facing it from the front, that is to say it was a building on the western side. It was different from how Jin imagined an imperial villa being like, but thinking that just might be a difference between worlds, Jin accepted it.

Since this was Hannah's first time on a carriage she was engrossed in looking out from the window. Elsa was watching out from the window too with a slightly interested look on her face.

"This is it, we've arrived."

The carriage's door was opened from the outside and a stool for getting down from the carriage was prepared.

First Reiko got down while being cautious. Of course, nothing was there.

Jin took Hannah by the hand and got down, then Elsa got down while feeling a little bit jealous of that.

"Thank you Jessica, you may go now."

The princess said but Jessica shook her head.

"No, I shall attend you until the end of the day."

"Well aren't you diligent, if only you were like this when using magic... Oh well."

While the princess spoke, they passed through entrance that was quite huge for an imperial villa.

Jin's group kept following after Jessica. She was a slightly dejected from the princess's comment.

There were less people around than expected. It seemed that the labor shortage affected this place too.

An Automata caught Jin's eye. She was wearing a maid's clothing and Jin could tell she was compensating for the labor shortage. However,

“Hmm, why is so rickety like that?”

Jin voiced his impression of the maid Automata. Even Elsa said,

“Jin-nii, the Automata here seem to be moving strangely. Awkwardly.”

Having become used to seeing golems made by Jin on Kunlun Island and Hourai Island, apparently she had become able to tell the difference between their movements.

Whether the princess heard their exchange or not, she kept on walking silently until she came to a stop in front of a room.

“Here.”

She placed her hand on the door, looked over her shoulder and spoke with a sad tone.

“Jin, please, We want you to repair her.”

She then personally opened the door.

Tapestry with flowers and butterflies on them had been hung on the walls of the room, and there was a soft bright green carpet on the floor. Judging from the feel it was a child’s room.

“Woah, cute room~”

Hannah said; she must’ve got the same impression.

“Yes, this was Our room as a child.”

The princess said, her eyes slightly moist.

“Take off your shoes and come in please.”

The princess said, neatly took off and put away her dark brown shoes, then stepped on the carpet. Jin’s group followed. Just Jessica kept standing as if protecting the entrance.

They looked around the room while feeling the soft sensation of the carpet under their feet. In the corner there was a crib, and beside it sat a silhouette.

“That’s...”

“...Ann?”

Jin and Elsa both spoke nearly simultaneously.

The one sitting there was a blue-haired Automata. At a glance you could tell it was the same model as Ann.

“Ann?”

The princess found some fault with what they said.

“That’s not her name. She’s ‘Tia’. Our only... nanny.”

Jin didn’t miss the sadness in her voice. He then went to take a closer look at ‘Tia’.

It was unmistakably the same model of Automata as Ann. Her condition was many times better than Ann’s at the time of her discovery.

But, she wasn’t running. Before ascertaining the cause Jin threw a question at the princess.

“Your Highness Princess Lieschen, how did you come into possession of this Tia?”

Hearing him, the princess reacted with a twitch.

“Jin you’re asking not from who, but how? We see, you must know, right? Indeed, Tia isn’t something that was recently made. It seems she was found from some ruins.”

As I thought, Jin thought.

“Tia is an automata, but she was also my nanny. We’ve heard that when We were very young she even breastfed Us.”

Indeed, if she was the same model as Ann then she probably also had nipples installed. The breastfeeding function may have been something custom.

“By the time I could understand what was going on, Tia could only talk and had become unable to move. Even so, she let me hear many stories and songs. But...”

The princess hung her head down.

“Three years ago, Tia suddenly stopped working. We tried showing her to the Magi Craftsmen of my country, but they told Us that because her construction differs from the one current Automata use she can’t be repaired.”

Tears were glittering in her eyes.

“Our country is undeveloped with regards to Automata and Golems. We’ve heard that Egelia Kingdom makes more use of Golems and Automata. Most of the Automata working here right now have been bought from Egelia Kingdom.”

While talking the princess softly touched the cheek of the unmoving Tia.

“We remember it. Tia was, Tia’s body was warm. The bodies of other Automata aren’t cold, but they aren’t warm either.”

The princess then fixed her eyes on Jin, took his hand and said,

“We know that Tia is a special Automata. But, whatever it takes, We want to hear her voice again. Please, Jin! Please repair Tia!”

Seeing her desperation, Jin could tell just how serious the once-lively Princess Lieschen was.

“Onii-chan, listen to the princess’s request. Onii-chan, you can do it, right?”

Even Hannah said so and looked at Jin. Elsa said nothing, but just looking at her face was enough to tell what she wanted to say.

It made no difference as Jin himself wanted to repair her too.

“I got it, I’ll do what I can.”

Jin said and began examining Tia.

Although her condition was better than Ann’s had been, her Magical Skin had

deteriorated and its elasticity had fallen and her Magical Muscles were torn to pieces in some places.

Her skeleton had deformations and her joints were also rattling quite a lot.

But the main cause of her becoming inoperable was the Ether Converter.

Jin's diagnosis was that the Magi Crystal used as the Ether Converter had degraded, and with this era's Ether concentration being too low, it had become unable to refine Mana.

That's why there was no way that this country's, or rather most of the current era's Magi Craftsmen could repair it.

“H-how is it? Can you repair her?”

The princess asked worriedly, then Jin told her with a smile,

“It's fine, I can repair her. But I need an all-attribute Magi Crystal though.”

Hearing that the princess began to smile.

“Got it! An all-attribute Magi Crystal! We'll have one provided at once!”

She said, then gave some kind of an order to Jessica who was standing at the entrance. Jessica went down the corridor and soon came back.

She must've given orders to other servants or Automata.

While waiting for the Magi Crystal to be delivered, Jin began simple maintenance and had Reiko lay Tia down on the floor.

“Your Highness, to repair Tia I have to take off her clothes, is this alright?”

Jin tentatively asked for courtesy's sake. Of course the princess agreed.

“Elsa, could you come here and take her clothes off?”

Sensing the cold gaze of Elsa who was watching, Jin decided to ask her.

“Mm.”

With a short reply Elsa began taking off Tia’s clothes. The clothes looked to be recently made as they weren’t worn out.

She took off the apron, the one-piece dress, and the slip-style underwear. As was usual in this world, there was no bra. The Automata was also wearing outdoor shoes tied with a string and bloomers.

“You can leave the bloomers for now.”

After having Elsa take off the slip Jin stopped her. If she was the same as Ann then that would be all sorts of perilous.

Then when Jin was about to tear off the chest’s Magical Skin his hand stopped.

“Your Highness, I’ll now be dissecting a part of Tia. I don’t know whether or not I want to show it to you. Your Highness, please decide it for yourself.”

Princess Lieschen looked down and thought about it for a while, but before long raised her face in determination and said,

“Please show Us. It’s what We asked for, and more importantly, no matter how she looks Tia is Tia. We’ll see it with Our own eyes.”

Chapter 14

Awakening, Reunion

“I understand. Please watch.”

Jin said and peeled off the chest’s Magical Skin along the seam. The metal exterior peeked from underneath.

“Jin-nii, it seemed like there was no seam there.”

Elsa who was watching the work said admiringly.

“Well, that’s because it’d be a killjoy if you could see one, so it was cleverly hidden.”

This is besides the point, but Reiko’s body didn’t have any kind of seams. Hers was seamless.

In the case of Ann and Tia the exterior had seams and by opening them you could see inside.

Tubes had been attached to her breasts and Jin could tell they were for breastfeeding milk which the Automata took in orally. It was a structure Ann didn’t have.

Later Jin would hear that Lieschen had been breastfed using milk collected especially from lesser noblewomen with babies.

Jin continued checking the insides.

“Oh... It’s rather damaged, isn’t it.”

Multiple Mithril-made magical nerves were also cut. They were the same things Jin had once described to Prince Ernest as ‘conducting wires that transmit Magic Energy to all of the body parts’.

Jin had named them magical nerves. His naming for technologies was suitably fine.

“Your Highness, might you have any Mithril? Just a little is enough.”

Jin asked Princess Lieschen who was watching from a small distance away. She immediately replied.

“Mithril? Let’s see, if this is enough then please use it.”

The princess said and took off the necklace hanging from her neck. Its chain was made out of Mithril.

“Is it really alright?”

Jin asked while accepting the necklace, and the princess replied right away saying she doesn’t mind. Jin furthermore raised his evaluation of the princess.

“I will use it then.... [Forming]. [Fusion].”

He replenished the Mithril of the cut magical nerves and connected them. Lotte, whom he had gifted to Prince Ernest had six magical nerves while Tia had twelve.

The limbs, the head, and the torso all had two. It was probably to raise reliability.

Jin remembered how Ann had no more than six magical nerves. Thinking of it, this Tia must’ve been either customized or was an early model. It seemed that the later mass-produced versions were simplified.

At that exact moment the Magi Crystal arrived. The princess went to the doorway to personally get it, then handed it over to Jin.

“Jin, will this do?”

It was a milky white Magi Crystal. Its quality and size were both adequate.

“Yes, that’s fine.”

Jin took it and set onto inscribing the Magi Formula to make it an Ether Converter. Since it was still impossible for Elsa, he kept the explanation to the basics.

“This is a Magi Device to convert the Ether in the air into Mana.”

Saying only that, Jin focused solely on writing the Magi Formula. The Magi Formula was so tiny and fine that not to mention Elsa, even the princess who had a magical eye of farsight couldn't read it.

But doing the work he had done countless of times before, Jin was done in the blink of an eye.

“Now to replace the old one with this.”

The old Ether Converter was a darkened white. It looked like a Magi Crystal whose quality had fallen down quite a lot.

“For now, let's reconnect the cut Magical Muscles and apply [Reinforce] on the Magical Skin.”

He made sure to make it at least able to move. Any more than that was impossible without materials even for Jin.

Some thirty minutes later the repair and maintenance was complete. The clothes were put back on, then finally came the activation of the Ether Converter.

Once started, it could convert the Mana it made into energy using its Mana Driver and operate with that. You could call this system a kind of a perpetual motion machine.

“Your Highness, are you able to use any kind of magic?”

The Magic Energy pattern used on the start-up decided the direction and nature of the Magic Energy the Automata emitted afterwards. This is why the golems and Automata Jin made had the same Magic Energy characteristics as he did.

“Hm? We can use [Cure] and [Water Ball] in addition to [Water Bullet].”

“That's enough. Please come over here.”

Jin said and the princess came over to Tia's side.

“Please place your hand on her chest... Like that, then pour in Magic Energy.”

Jin said, but the princess looked surprised and hurriedly said,

“W-what!? Just Magic Energy? W-we’ve never done that before?”

Jin guided her gently,

“It’s alright. Just use [Cure] and it’ll work out. The moment you feel you’re about to cast it,... let’s see, how should I say this... Something like, try undoing the convergence?”

“Hmm... It’s vague but We can tell what you’re trying to say. Should We give it a try?”

“Yes, please do.”

“Here we go....!!”

Jin who was watching the flow of Magic Energy using the [Trace] spell saw the Magic Energy concentrate on the princess’s hands, then saw her cancel it just before it materialized as healing magic.

Half of it vanished into the air, but the remaining half was just enough to start Tia’s Ether Converter.

The Ether Converter made Mana, passed it to the Mana Driver, which sent energy to all parts of Tia’s body through the magical nerves.

She then opened her eyes. Next she sat up slowly. Her blue eyes noticed Princess Lieschen.

“Prin... cess...”

Her lips moved just a little, but she was still able to speak out a word.

“It’s been... a while. You’ve grown... bigger”

She said and smiled sweetly.

“Ti... Tia....!”

The princess hugged Tia.

“Tia, I wanted to see you. I wanted to see you so...!”

“Come now, princess, you’re acting as spoiled as always, aren’t you.”

While talking Tia tenderly hugged the princess back. Although it was just her arms, she could move. There just wasn’t enough material for the legs.

“I never, thought, I’d get to, see you again, princess...”

“Me neither...!”

Jin’s group nearby exchanged glances and left the scene. They looked at Hannah and she was lying down sleeping on the soft and fluffy carpet.

“Just now, she said ‘I’ and not ‘We’.”

Elsa whispered to Jin with a low voice.

“Mh-hm, she undoubtedly said ‘I’ when Tia began to move. She must’ve returned to her past.”

Jin replied with a low voice too.

Jessica then came over to them and,

“Jin-dono, let me thank you too. It’s been a long time since I’ve seen the princess this happy. I cannot thank you enough.”

She said, lowering her head. Jin felt ashamed.

“No, I only repaired an Automata that didn’t work. If Her Highness was made happy then it was all thanks to Tia.”

“Hehe, Jin-dono, aren’t you humble. But it doesn’t seem like the princess thinks that way.”

Jessica said and pointed behind Jin.

Jin turned and met the wet eyes of Princess Lieschen with blushed cheeks.

“Jin, thank you! You’ve done what no Magi Craftsman in this country could do!”

She said and took both of Jin’s hands. Her voice woke up the napping Hannah.

“Mm... Ah, Tia-san’s moving!”

The princess too smiled when she heard that.

“That’s right, you’ve got a good elder brother, he’s amazing, isn’t he.”

“Yeah!”

At the side, even Elsa was smiling happily.

“Your Highness, although I repaired Tia some things were only temporary measures, so please don’t have her overdo it.”

Jin gave a warning, just in case.

“Mh-hm, got it! Jin, what kind of a reward would you like?”

“Eh, nothing in...”

Jin began to speak, but then Elsa pulled on his sleeve. Understanding that she was thinking of something, he tried leaving the talking to Elsa.

“Your Highness, in that case, I was thinking we’d like entrance permits to Alban.”

What Jin’s group had been issued in the morning were only temporary permits.

“Mh-hm, that’s a simple thing. And?”

“And tonight’s lodgings.”

“Hmm, hmm, you may stay here. We have a lot of things We want to talk to you about!”

She had been thinking that the princess would introduce them to an inn, but instead it turned out they’d stay there.

“We’ll have the rooms prepared at once.”

The princess faced the doorway and gave orders to the young maid there.

She then turned to Jin's group and said,

"She'll guide you to the guest room, please follow her."

And so Jin's group was this time led to the guest room. The princess returned to Tia's side and began talking about something again. She must've been very happy, it seemed like their separation had been quite hard.

Jessica stayed on watch in the corridor. Why the captain of the Imperial Guard knights, you may ask. The maid told them that she had originally been the princess's bodyguard and had had a successful career from there.

"It's because Jessica-sama actually treasures the princess a lot. She's protected the princess ever since she was little."

The maid seemed to love talking as she had in addition kept on fluently chattering about the gossip inside the royal palace without even asking.

The guest room was only for Jin's group.

"Hey, Elsa."

Jin threw a slightly critical look towards Elsa but,

"Jin-nii, just what were you thinking. You did what no Magi Craftsman in this country could just like that. There's no way they'd send us off just like that."

She had a point.

"So tonight, keep her company properly."

You could read another meaning to what Elsa said, but Jin could understand what she meant.

Since staying in the royal palace –or more appropriately the imperial villa– was a rare experience for Hannah she was fine with it, but Jin disliked stiff places like these.

"Elsa's probably used to it though..."

He muttered and,

“That’s not the case.”

Elsa replied.

“Because until I was precisely the age of that princess, I never went out to the high society.”

Until then she had just done what she liked and played, she said.

“That’s why I’m not fond of formal situations either.”

While thinking of how she didn’t say she dislikes them, Jin played with the braided hair of Hannah who was sitting next to him. She silently, no, smilingly let him.

Reiko stood quietly like she was protecting Jin, and soon it had become dark outside.

Chapter 15

The princess' melancholy

“Sorry to have kept you waiting.”

Princess Lieschen came in. She had already changed clothes.

“Waa, princess! Pretty!”

Hanna was entranced.

She was wearing a comfortable dress and not her outing clothes. It was a pink dress with white lace.

“I, for one, do not like this kind of clothes, though.”

Wearing a bitter smile, she said those words. However, that behavior was polished and it could easily be understood as not being pretension.

“The preparations for dinner will be done soon. Please do not worry about etiquette and have fun.”

“Yes, thank you very much.”

And then before long, two attendants and two automatas, came in carrying dinner. No, the ones who came carrying it were the automatas and the ones who lined it up on the table were the attendants.

An elderly man, the grand chamberlain, was standing at the corner of the room and was overseeing the affair.

(Ah, this automata is pretty worn out...)

Looking at the automata's behavior, that's what Jin thought. Jin could understand just by looking.

(I can't just fix it as I please, either...)

He could not help being bothered by it. It's what one would call the mechanic's saga.

The lined up dinner was moderately extravagant and one could tell it was a menu which isn't pointlessly luxurious.

A small boiled pot, which had various vegetables in it, was there, like a pot-au-feu.

On a mouthful-sized steak were red and yellow vegetables cut into small cubes with sauce on top.

A marinade made with a tinge fish-salmon.

A boiled food, which looked like rusk but was not rusk, cut into small pieces with sugar smeared on top.

Plain omelette.

And a salad with a lot of fresh vegetables.

For drinks, they served fruit juice.

“This menu is similar to the one I normally have. Well, it might not fit your tastes perfectly but please, dig in.”

“Yes, itadakimasu!”

Hanna started eating at once. Similar to Jin, Hanna was not a picky eater either. It seems like Elza does not like Cokarisk's meat but looks like it wasn't served this time. And so, the three of them were normally enjoying dinner but then the princess asked with a curious expression,

“Is that ‘itadakimasu’ an Egelia kingdom manner or something?”

To that question, Jin answered,

“No, that's not quite right. It is like a greeting said before having meals in my house.”

Hearing that, the princess looked very curious.

“Hou, looks like Jin is from a very unique household. I'd be happy to hear all about it when there are no hindrances.” said the princess.

Moreover, she smiled and said she wanted to know many different customs of many different kingdoms.

Jin decided to talk about the automatas.

“It looks like your automatas are being used quite a bit, princess. Do you know their manufacturer?”

“No, I do not know. It was given to me by my father”

“I see. From what I saw, one seems to be from Egelia kingdom and the other from Selroa kingdom.”

As Jin said that, the princess, who was impressed, said, ‘Hou, you can tell just by looking?’ and continued,

“How do I say this, it feels like their movements are getting sloppier. What do you think?”

Hearing that, Jin thought that the princess knows her stuff as well. And said frankly,

“It is as you say. I think they are not undergoing maintenance.”

He even went on to say that there is a need for the required materials and someone who can do the maintenance. But that was asking for unnecessary trouble.

“Ohh, is that so? I will make arrangements for the materials tonight. Jin, rest well today. And tomorrow, please do maintenance on them!”

Elza, who was listening beside them, let out a sigh and gave a look at Jin saying ‘Even though we had to stay over tonight because you said something unnecessary, you had to do it again...’.

But Elza doesn’t hate such sides of Jin. She was just a little worried. After all, she knows Jin’s interests towards automatas and golems are not normal...

“Hanna, looks like you took quite a liking to that. Here, have mine as well.”

“Wah, thank you, princess.”

She shared her pelshika with Hannah, making her even happier.

As for Jin, pelshika equals peach, so he was wondering why they were here at this time. He had not yet done a detailed research of Hourai island yet but it feels like the underground’s Ether has something to do with it—but here, in Kurain kingdom...?

He won't come to an answer no matter how hard he thinks so he decided to make Quinta investigate it later on.

While Jin was pondering such a thing, Elza was having a heartwarming feeling that, while they were not connected by blood, the three here were definitely her family.

“Hanna-chan, I will give you this as well.”

“Wah, sis, thank you!”

Elza also shared her peach with Hanna. Seeing that spectacle, Lieschen princess made a slightly jealous expression.

“You guys really get along well. I am a bit jealous.”

Hearing that, Hanna said,

“Princess, do you have someone you don't get along with?”

It is Hannah's special privilege to be able to ask questions like that. For good or worse, she had been living in a village without any ulterior motive.

Hearing that question, the princess didn't take any offense, rather she wore a somewhat sad expression and answered,

“Fufu, it isn't like I am on bad terms with someone. Just that I don't have any family I do get along with.”

A similar but different expression. Elza had a rough idea of the situation. Princess Lieschen was disconnected from the royal family.

Jin also understood from a different perspective. That the opposite of like is not hate here, but rather apathy. It's not that she is liked or hated, she is just ignored and she has to bear with it.

Automatas won't ever betray their master. But can that be said to be the automata's will? Weren't they just created like that? When he was thinking about that, he felt kinda empty. Feeling peace by being served by just automatas is no different than secluding oneself from the outside world.

“Your Highness, your siblings...”

When Jin started to say that, as if the princess had guessed it, she went ahead and

answered,

“My eldest brother is Edmond. He will become 28 this year. Younger than him is Arthur, he is 26. My eldest sister is 30 and married a duke. My other sister is 22 and she too married a duke.”

“...Your siblings, are all, separated quite a lot by age...”

Elza was also much younger than her brothers, so she somewhat understood. That if you are close in age, you can't really get along in the real sense.

“Your mother...”

“Mother... died almost as soon as she gave birth to me. That might also be why my brothers and sisters are cold towards me...”

Jin felt like he understood it a little. In the current royal family of Kurain kingdom, there was no queen. As because the queen died right after giving birth to the youngest child, the youngest princess is neglected by her siblings.

“Only father is kind to me... but he is always busy...”

But Jin couldn't possibly do anything. He could only wish this smart and lively princess grows up to be an upright adult.

‘No, at the very least, I could make her feel at ease while I am here.’ Jin thought again. Even if it is by the help of automatas.

Although it contradicts with what he thought before, he gave a bitter smile and decided that he was going to give his all to fix the automatas.

There, Jin borrowed writing materials and wrote down all the materials he would need and requested to get them ready.

“Hm, I got it! If you have all this, it will be enough, right? I will prepare them by tomorrow morning.”

The princess handed over the sheet to her attendant and gave instructions.

“I am excited about tomorrow.”

After dinner, he avoided serious talk and let her listen to some stories of Egelia

kingdom.

After all, Jin had traveled from Elias kingdom all the way to Serroa kingdom and also through the main road of Egelia kingdom.

“Hoho, I had heard the rumors but to think the golem incident was that horrible.”

Among all the stories, the princess was the most interested in the golem incident. Being involved with the incident, Jin and Elza summed up roughly all there was to it. But eventually, the princess noticed Hannah was dozing off so she expressed her gratitude for letting her hear the stories and left.

And instead, an attendant came to guide Jin and the others to the bedroom. This attendant did not seem like she liked to talk, being the quiet elderly type.

“Guests, thank you very much for today. It has been awhile since I have been able to see the princess enjoying herself that much.” she left saying just that.

All three of them were in the same room. Even then, it was about as big as 20 tatami mats and they had their own beds, with curtains, ensuring private space.

Putting Hannah to sleep on one of the beds, Jin told Elza and Reiko,

“That princess is a better kid than I had thought. Tomorrow, I am thinking of making all the automatas here better before I go.”

“Nn. I knew Jin-nii would say that.”

“As father wills.”

Both Elza and Reiko did not oppose. And then, Jin gave Reiko instructions.

“Reiko, contact Laojun and make him send over some materials needed for repair.”

And then Jin counted up the materials needed for repair. Which will probably be taken in by the SP who are always with Jin.

He probably wouldn't need that much but he instructed them to pack it so that it's like hand luggage and does not stand out.

“Alright, everything will be done tomorrow.”

Saying that, Jin threw himself on the bed.

“Sightseeing somehow turned into this, huh?”

“No, this is interesting in itself.”

Elza also sat on her bed and answered.

“I know that Jin-nii is not only kind towards humans, but towards automatas and golems as well.”

Hearing that, Reiko wore a very small, gentle smile.

Chapter 16

Repairs

The next morning, there was breakfast as usual at 7:30. The nobles, being royalty, woke up earlier.

Hannah woke up at 5:30, and rolled around in bed, while Jin also woke up early, becoming Hannah's partner for waking up.

That being so, Jin braided Hannah's hair.

Erza woke up later around 6 am, arising to the opening of the curtains.

All three of them woke up, so they went to go wash their faces.

When they exited the corridor, an automata stood in their way.

“GOOD MORNING”

The automata greeted them. Jin sensed the automata's failure in its speech function.

Because there was a bathroom at the end of the corridor, they headed in that direction without getting lost and washed their faces, feeling refreshed.

Jin, who looked out the window of the bathroom, knew the automata had the bucket for drawing the water.

“This automata's behavior is a little off as well...”

Knowing that Kurain Kingdom was understaffed made Jin feel a little concerned. At that moment, a cheerful voice came from behind.

“Oh, I see that Jin and you guys have woken up! Good morning!”

It was Princess Lieschen. She appears to be wearing a thin silk nightgown. The pattern

was so close-knit that you couldn't see through.

An elderly maid was with her, but the princess washed her face alone, along with her mouth. She took a towel from the maid to wipe her face, and started to brush her hair.

The bathroom had a mirror, but it was a little distorted, although it showed the brilliance of Jin who was lost in it but noticed and chanted,
"Transform. Face Treatment."

And the mirror returned to its lovely figure. The princess saw and was quite delighted.

"Hoho! The Magi Craft Man has such an amazing talent! There is still more to be developed in our country."

Said Elza, who was starting to devise a plan. Jin said,

"Elza, transformation seems easy, but it is actually quite intricate. The simpler the shape, the more important the image is. You have to make the mirror flat."

Said Jin, lecturing Elza.

"Uhuh, I got it"

Meanwhile, one could hear the sound of Hannah's footsteps as she walked back into the room. That same Hannah was being called over by Princess Lieschen.

"Wait, you said you were Hannah, correct? Come to my room. I want to do something good with you."

"Eh? Whatever for, princess?"

"Don't think about it too much. Now, come."

Said Princess Lieschen to Hannah, as Jin and Elza refused to let the princess borrow their sister, and withdrew their hands. Hannah however, was happy to be called by the princess.

But then, how valuable is it to spend time with royalty like this?

As Jin returned to the room, he said to Elza,

“If you are with Jin-nii, all of your common sense will go away.”

However one heard it, Jin was aware his words were not necessarily ones of praise, as he smiled bitterly.

“Father, here are the materials I have received.”

Reiko, who came in as their conversation ended, showed Jin the material he ordered last night.

He put it in his leather bag that looked like one you could get anywhere, and asked when she was holding it, to which she replied she had been holding it under her coat since the very beginning, giving no signs of unease.

Jin confirmed everything was there, and gave a pleased smile.

“Oniii~ chaan~”

At that time, Hannah returned. As she opened the door, Jin looked, surprisingly with a loss for words.

“Tee hee! How do I look?”

Hannah had on a gorgeous dress given to her by the princess.

“They are my clothes, but how does she look? Do they match her?”

Said Princess Lieschen, who returned to the room.

Hannah’s chestnut hair, which was previously braided by Jin, was combed down and decorated with flowers and silver hair ornaments.

The dress itself appeared to be the princess’ favorite color, light pink. With laces and frills, it looked cute. A big ribbon was tied around, emphasizing her chest.

Wearing pure white gloves that go all the way up to her elbows, she looks just like a beautiful young lady.

“It fits you quite well. You look very cute!”

Jin said in praise, as Hannah smiled widely, giggling cheerfully.

* * *

“Since you have worn it already, you can take the dress home.”

Said the princess during breakfast.

“Anyhow, I can’t wear it anymore.”

“Okay! Thank you, Princess!”

Hannah was delighted. Seeing that, the princess smiled. Smaller than the princess, who is the youngest child of her family, Hannah’s cuteness was irresistible.

Usually, the princess is not this close with the common people, so this is valuable time for her.

“Now then, I’m going to put in my fighting spirit to fix this thing!”

Jin, who was finished with his meal, declared to the princess that was going to start repairs.

“Your Highness, would you please summon all the working automata to come here? Please also ask for the material requested yesterday.”

At the same time, Jin asked to borrow a room to work in.

The princess nodded, and brought Jin to another room. Inside was space of about 10 tatami mats, and in a corner, the material Jin had asked for.

“How is this room?”

Because there was a spacious and sturdy table placed inside, Jin agreed to use the space.

“I need Elza nearby to help me. By the way, how is Hannah?”

“Hannah is... Taking care of me.”

Since the princess herself decided so, Jin was happy to leave Hannah with her. Plus, he was using the materials obtained from Hourai Island, and having those two around would make him feel a little nervous.

“Well then. I will start working.”

There were no observations made as to whether Jin was completely confident in his work.

Including Tia, there were 11 working automata in the villa.

“Now, shall I fix Tia first?”

“Yes, please do.”

Jin made Tia inactive and placed her on the table. He then removed all her clothing.

“...Ah...”

Elza, watching, made a sound and blushed. Just like Ann, part of Tia was made exactly like a woman.

Jin disassembled Tia quickly, not minding her appearance.

He stripped away all of her exterior, including her magical skin.

“Ah, this is terrible.”

“Hm. She looks tattered.”

Since Elza watched Jin when he made Lotte in Blue Land, she was not the least bit disturbed.

“Oh, the skeleton is distorted and rusty.”

The skeleton was made from steel like Ann, but it is slightly rusted at the joints and bent in certain locations.

“I want to make it from silver, but that’s impossible. So I will make it using stainless steel instead.”

Said Jin, who took some chrome and nickel from Reiko’s leather bag. He prepared those materials which came from Hourai Island.

“Elza, look carefully. This is chrome, and this is nickel. Mixing it with steel makes an alloy called stainless steel.”

While explaining, Jin slowly removed Tia’s skeleton and used an alloying magic technique to create the stainless steel alloy.

To fix the distortion, he used <Transform>. Then he coated the joints with adamantite.

“The skeleton is done, now for the muscle.”

He asked the princess to order sandworm leather, which is a specialty from the Japanese empire. It was quite expensive, since the location is quite far and there is not a big amount.

However, Jin was prepared, using a large amount of magic fiber produced in Hourai Island along with the sandworm leather. The combination was perfect.

“So, by combining these thin fibers and twisting them together makes her more sturdier and supple.”

Said Jin, who explained to Elza as he replaced the magical muscles. Elza looked at Jin’s hand movements in order to absorb his knowledge, trying to remember his precise motions.

“I think this is good. But the rest looks useless.”

“I think that Jin-nii is amazing for finishing it in 15 minutes.”

“Haha...”

Next was the magic devices, such as the control core, which Jin confirmed yesterday to be nearly depleted of Magi crystal power.

He replaced the robust Magi crystal, and decided there was no need to worry about

the Unifier anymore, but, just in case, made countermeasures against any possible enemy magic.

The Magi device was restored in its Mithril casing and surrounded with sponge made from gourasherum for cushioning. The finished product appeared a bit bulky because of the specific material used.

They exchanged all tattered magical devices with new replacements. The old nucleus control cores were decided to be analyzed at Hourai Island, since it is possible they could bring new insights.

“Without further maintenance, these will be fine for another 20 to 30 years.”

The improvements were made so that they would not deteriorate easily from daily tasks.

Jin returned the exterior to its original position. He used *<Face Treatment>* on the exterior parts and other places that were rusting.

Finally, the magic skin, which was also made in Hourai Island. Jin, who used the same colors, thought about what to do for the rest.

He heard that the princess used to drink milk from automata's chest, so he left that part as is.

Because there was a tank to store milk inside the breast part, Jin redeveloped the automata to be a nursing nanny.

Jin admired that the inside of the tank was engraved with the magic formula of *<Purification>*, intended to prevent milk from spoiling.

“But, just using *<Purification>* will be useless.”

Effective, but not enough. Milk spoilage can't be prevented just by using *<Purification>* that separates impurities. As long as there are no impurities, it will slow down spoilage. Because of this, Jin decided to add his own formula, named *<Sterilization>*.

“Underneath is...”

There was a problem in the lower abdomen. After all the trouble, Jin decided to leave it, only using <Reinforcement>, without exchanging any magic skin.

“Jin-nii, your face is becoming red.”

As Elza pointed that out, Jin ended his work, which took 30 minutes.

He dressed it and turned its power back on. Tia, who awakened from a deep sleep, lowered her head and thanked Jin.

“Jin-sama, thank you very much. Now I can work again.”

“Tia, you are now restored. Your performance should be better than before. I will let the princess know.”

After Jin’s reply, Tia smiled and responded.

“Yes, certainly. I exist to work for the princess.”

The remaining 10 automata were restored quickly. The 7 automata who worked indoors were made by Egelia Kingdom, and the other 3 working outdoors were made by Selroa Kingdom.

There was no deterioration of the magic skin, and it seemed that it will last long enough because of Jin’s <Reinforcement>.

However, since most of the joints were worn down, they had to be repaired and coated with adamantine.

Since the skeleton was only made of iron, Jin added nickel and chrome to make stainless steel. This caused the nickel and chrome to nearly run out.

“There is no Ether converter...”

Because of the present era, mana tanks are used instead of Ether converters.

When Jin thought of where to refill the mana tank, he remembered that there seemed

to be one behind the washroom.

The automata go there to refill there mana, which Jin can also do for them.

“There is a considerable amount of magic fiber left, so let’s use that to strengthen the automata.”

Jin strengthened the automata with the magic fiber. This made the automata 1.5 times stronger.

He then replaced the automatas’ degrading voice function with a magic crystal. Jin was quickly running out of them, and managed with only one left, which he put in his pocket.

“Okay, finished.”

He fixed them one by one, the last automata exiting the room.

“...Phew”

Elza sighed as she watched them depart, her response understandable since she also helped Jin work for 2 hours straight.

“The last part is...”

“...we aren’t done yet?”

Elza asked, amazed.

“No, you see, we need to know which mana supplier is available for them to use.”

Oh yeah, Jin thought. Just walk through the corridor. He began to follow the automata.

“Inside the washroom... Is that it?”

There was a huge device, which made Jin want to analyze its engineering magic.

“Hmm, the principle it uses is close to those of Ether converters, but to make one this big...”

He stopped tampering with it, only meddling with the parts that looked inefficient.

“Well, I think this might improve its efficiency.”

That said, Jin looked satisfied.

Tia’s performance appeared to be 3 times better than usual.

Chapter 17

Side Story: Hourai Island's secret and Topaz's job

Topaz, Hourai Island's golem maid was in charge of the soil development. Amethyst and Ruby, who were created at the same time, were in charge of the defence. Peridot was in charge of the house work and Aqua was in charge of the flood control. They had subordinates, who were given numbers from 1 to 100, and they all worked diligently everyday.

Soil development is kinda plain but it is important.

The reason being that it connects to providing their master, Jin, with necessary food. The leader of all the Topaz, 'Topaz leader', was given all the necessary knowledge from Jin and Laojun (which is ultimately Jin's knowledge anyway) to do the work. Most of the unclear points were solved by asking Laojun, so they mostly don't face any hindrance while carrying out everyday work.

"Done with the first stage of the orchards and the field's maintenance is also complete."

The Topaz says to herself. It was a habit she got from Jin. One tends to talk to themselves more when they live alone for so long.

In front of Topaz's eyes, the field and orchard spread into the horizon.

In the field, there were wheat and barley. Fruit trees grow depending on the four seasons, so she tried planting wheat and they kept growing steadily and would soon be ripe enough to be harvested.

There were pelshka, apple and citran. And also maron (chestnut) and ornatt (walnut). It also had lamons (lemon).

"Pelshka seems like it would be the most useful."

What is called 'peach' in modern Earth era, that fruit, which resembles it so much, also blooms in spring and bears fruit in the summer. But here, in Hourai island, they can be harvested all year round.

After looking into it with Laojun, they found out that it was due to the particular geographical aspects of the Hourai island.

[Seems like Hourai island has 'Earth pulses' passing through it.] Laojun had said. It was still being investigated so Jin was not yet informed.

Laojun's travel terminal, Laozi, and Topazs from 11 to 30 were investigating it so they would probably come to a conclusion in a few days. They can report to Jin after that. The reason why the previous Magi Craft Meistar, Adriana, set base here was because of the abundance of ore underground.

[The fact that it has such an abundance of ore hints that there's a high possibility Hourai island has an ether route.] Laojun had speculated as such and begun investigation based on that.

And in reality, Hourai island's crop growth rate was high as well.

They were able to confirm that the higher the plant has affinity with magic, the faster it grows.

"And the fastest among all them is pelshka, after all."

Peach, apple and citran, the fruits which had been probably growing naturally since long ago, grow during the four seasons without exception.

[I tried comparing the apple I bought at Blue Land the other day with Hourai island's apples.]

Topaz remembered the conversation she had with Laojun the day before yesterday.

"How was it?"

Topaz had asked but in her mind, she could already guess the answer. And then,

[The ether in the Hourai island apple was more. To be specific, it was 10 times more.]

And Laojun replied with the answer she had guessed.

According to Jin's theory, ether's size is even smaller than particles and can easily go through materials.

To stop ether, one must use magic.

"But, ether does stop in pelshka's seeds, do they...?"

[Humans who are called mages, are able to take in the ether in the air and turn that into mana inside of their body.]

The mana inside of them get used up if they use magic but can be refilled by taking in the ether in the air once again.

This mana can be used to take form of various different energy forms by the human's will and imagination and can be controlled. That is magic.]

That is Jin's interpretation of the theory the previous Magi Craft Meistar had constructed.

Humans who do not have magical power can't even take in the ether so naturally, they are not able to use it either.

"But, ether stops inside of the pelshka seed. Which means, the seed itself has magical power, right?"

If the seed possesses magical power, so would the tree.

The magical power is more in areas where the density of ether is high.

"And because of this, in Hourai island, magical plants' (temporary name) development is faster, right?"

This is what Laojun and Topaz came up with.

What's left is to discover the 'ether pulse' (temporary name) inside the ground.

Although, this has been proven to a certain extent.

It can be understood by looking at the grand spiders and grand caterpillars, which live off of ether, living and prospering underground.

All that's left is to wait till the investigation result supports that.

Incidentally, the discovery that pelshka seed holds magical power became the indicator which lead to a ground-breaking preservation method.

[The peach, apple and citran inserted into the 'ether stocker' do not deteriorate.]

It was completed on 11th of April but Laojun had already experimentally stored fruits at that time.

According to that, the fruits which would normally drop in quality inside a normal refrigerator, do not deteriorate at all inside an 'ether stocker'.

After finding out that things which do not have magical power are not harmed at all when put inside an ether stocker, all the refrigerators/freezers at the research

institute were remodelled.

“We can stop the fruits, which master does not eat, from rotting with this.”

And that was right – the fruits they diligently stocked up for Jin always rot after being in the refrigerator for about a month.

It would be a waste so they had been dehydrating the rotten fruits and putting it to use as fish food at the Tatsumi bay.

However, after the ether stocker was completed, they were able to store it without it rotting.

This extremely small portion was being used by the Quinta scattered about at different places.

“Ooh, it is really rare for pelshka to be available in this season! It would make tons of money!”

There are plenty of nobles who say that. By gifting such nobles these pelshkas, they create a connection and are able to gather various information.

[Maybe, it is also possible to replenish the magical power.]

Having speculated as such, Laojun used the Quinta and was also performing experiments on a living person in secret.

Even though I say experiments on a living person, they only measured the magical power amount on a person before and after eating the pelshka.

Using a device Jin had planned after experiencing the magical power affinity measurement of the Egelia kingdom’s guild.

The principle was simple. By making use of the phenomenon of magical power resonance, it would measure the amount of magical power the subject possesses.

Most of the nobles who have eaten the pelshka also have magical power. And therefore, it was possible to secretly measure and gather the data.

And according to that data, as Laojun had speculated, the effect of magical power recovery from intaking the pelshka was certainly high.

At that time, Laojun had contacted Topaz informing that some interesting information had been reported to Jin by the SP.

[It seems that pelshka had reached the dining tables in Krain kingdom.]

Thinking about it logically, there was no way for the fruit to have travelled that far so quick. It was quite unlikely that pelshka would appear in Krain kingdom, which was further north of the Hourai island. Thinking it to be strange, Topaz asked,

“Where was that pelshka harvested?”

[I am making the Quinta do follow-up survey on it.]

Laojun answered immediately.

Spika-7 and Regrus-2 had been dispatched to the vicinity of Krain kingdom’s capital, Alban. He added that the adult among the two, Regrus-2, was doing the investigation. The result was brought about the following day.

Krain kingdom was undeveloped in terms of magical techniques but inversely, they were quite ahead other countries in agriculture.

In fact, there was even a greenhouse there.

By using the fire magi stone inside to keep it warm even at night, they were able to harvest it even in Spring.

“After exposing it to the cold in November, they start the heating process in December. The flowers bloom by January and the fruit is ready to be harvested by April.”

[But, the amount would not be much, right?]

“Yes, at most, it would be around a hundred. And the majority of that is supplied to the royal castle.”

Regrus-2 ended the report.

“If they are being treated with such precious food, master and the others are really being warmly welcomed, aren’t they?”

Topaz asked to Laojun.

[That is true. For the time being, Hourai island won’t be needing a greenhouse but preparing one wouldn’t be bad, I suppose.]

And just like this, for the betterment of Jin’s eating habits, Topaz and Laojun were

cooperating day and night with all their energy.



Ether's route's, namely 'Magic pulses', existence would come to be known 2 days after this — just about when Jin would return.

Chapter 18

Unforeseen Incident

“Onii-chaan.”

Hearing Jin’s footsteps in the corridor, Hanna also stepped out. She was wearing a different dress yet again.

This one had no sleeves. The type which hangs from the shoulder.

The skirt spread out and made fluttering noises every time she walked.

“How is it coming along, Jin? Are you maybe done with half of it?”

Princess Lieschen asked with somewhat impish eyes. Jin smiled and replied shortly,

“I am done with all of it.”

Not expecting such a reply the slightest, the princess asked with wide eyes,

“Really?!”

The princess had not really known what a Magi Craft Man would actually be like but she had her own thoughts about it. But that was all betrayed in a good way.

“It is true, princess. Jin-sama is a wonderful person. He also fixed me completely.” said Tia.

“T-Tia! You can walk now?!”

“Yes, thanks to you and Jin-sama, I was completely fixed. Just like before — No, I have been fixed to an even better version of me than before. With this, I can always serve you properly.”

“I see, I see...!”

The princess said while jumping towards her and Tia properly grabbed her. Till now,

Tia probably had some difficulty freely using her feet so this was probably the first time she was able to do something like this.

“As you can see, I am completely fine now.”

Saying that, Tia held the princess up in her arms. This was the genuine princess carry.

“I am glad... I am glad...”

Seeing the princess become even happier than yesterday when they had restarted Tia, it made all three of them smile.



“I really wanted to introduce you to my father, the King but...”

After having lunch, Jin informed the princess that they were leaving. The princess nodded even though she was a little reluctant. She might have thought that it would not be nice to forcibly make them stay.
At that moment,

“Excuse me.”

Along with the voice, the Imperial Guard Knight captain, Jessica Norton, came in with the vice captain, Gloria Orstat.

“Oh, you are here too, Jin-dono.”

Seeing Jin and the others, Jessica looked like she was relieved.

“The analysis details of yesterday’s golem came in so I came to report to the princess. You guys have also helped, so you have a right to listen.”

And so, they shifted locations to the reception room. Seeing all the automatas moving around energetically, Jessica was left dumbfounded.

“Ohh, it’s like they are completely different from yesterday. Was it you, Jin-dono?”

“Yes. Jin fixed every single automata here.”

“Oohhh, as I thought! He was also a first class Magi craft man, huh? Not only being good at swordsmanship but at automatas too... Ahh, now that I think about it, you had a wonderful automata beside you, didn’t you? As expected of Egelia kingdom’s honorary Magi craft man!” said Gloria.

She had already equipped the short sword Jin had made for her.

Automata — no, Tia came in with tea.

“Pr-princess, th-this is?!”

Seeing Tia, who was barely able to move yesterday move better than ever before, Jessica was again staring in wonder.

“Fufu, were you surprised? Jin also fixed Tia today!”

Taking a sip of the tea, the princess said proudly.

“More importantly, let me hear the report.”

“Ye-yes...”

Wiping off her sweat, Jessica fixed her posture and started her report. One could feel the dignity worthy of the Imperial Knights’ captain from that form.

According to the report, the two captured golems were brought in secretly by the Unifiers.

It seems their aim was to cause chaos at Alban during the afternoon on the 27th.

Hearing that, Jin thought to himself, that the time they were brought in, Unifiers were pushing forward with their world conquest and Joule and the others couldn’t probably do much.

“The 3 in question were spies of Unifiers as expected. However, about the earlier notice, hypno, was it? There were no signs of such manipulation.”

It was because even the normal members who were not part of the higher ups would cooperate with the world conquest even without brainwashing. Jin had heard that too from Joule through Laojun.

“Unifiers, eh... that is troublesome.”

The princess said with a grim face. Jin had to hold back his urge to tell the princess that the Unifiers were harmless now.

“Good job on the report. Ah, right — I was thinking of seeing off Jin and the others to the castle gate. Would you guys like to come as well?”

“Yes, if it is the princess’ order.”

“Eh, Jin-dono, are you already going back?”

Jessica agreed immediately but Gloria looked a bit sad.

“I shall come again someday.”

Saying that, Jin stood up. Following him, Elsa and Hanna also stood up. Reiko was holding the bag, which was almost empty now. For some reason, there was something packed in it.

They headed towards the south gate on the princess’ carriage. The ones riding on the carriage were Jin, Lieschen princess, Tia, Elsa and Reiko. Jessica and Gloria were riding horses, escorting the carriage.

Hanna was still wearing the princess’ dress. Who knows how many more clothing she had received. In fact, the dresses she got were packed in the bag Reiko was carrying.

“Right, I should give you this. I had requested for it yesterday.”

The princess handed over a castle entry permit to Jin.

It was of silver color, only given to people the royalty had acknowledged. Who knows when they had it made but it properly had Jin, Elsa and Hanna’s portraits engraved in it, making it useless to other people.

“With this, you can come to the castle anytime.”

The general public can only enter the castle when the gates are open, meaning from 7 am to 6 pm. But with this silver permit, they can enter anytime except of emergency times such as war periods.

“Thank you very much.”

Jin gratefully accepted it. The portrait was black and white so he could possibly come

in with a different hair color as well.

“Also, this is my thanks.”

Saying that, the princess handed over a heavy bag to Jin.

“It has 50 gold coins in it. I do not know if it is enough but it is the best I can do. Please forgive me.”

500,000 toll, approximately 5,000,000 yen. Jin refused to accept it.

“Princess, this is too much.”

“Mu-I-Is that so? But, I would like to...”

“No, that money is the tax from the people, right? It won’t be good to use it like this.”

Jin tried persuading her with that.

“Mmm, then how much would you be willing to accept?”

Being asked that in return, Jin was at a loss for words.

“Ri-right. 2 gold coins would probably be enough...”

Hearing that, the princess brought out 5 gold coins from the bag and handed them over.

“The things you have done is much more valuable to me than 50 gold coins. Please understand that. And also, I know how you feel but do not be so modest. That would be decreasing the value of the things you did.

It was really fun getting to know you guys. If it is okay, won’t you be my friend?”

Jin, and Elsa too, understood the princess’ feelings and Hanna as well, kindly said,

“Yes, with pleasure.”

“Happily.”

“Princess, you will become my friend? Yay!”

There was no way they would refuse.

“Hmm, I am grateful. Then, from now on, I would like you all to call me Lies.”

“Yes, Lies-sama.”

“Is it okay to call you Lies-sama?”

“Lies-onee-chan!”

“Yes, that is fine. Ahh, today is a good day.”

Meanwhile, the carriage had reached outside the gate and stopped. To check if there were any suspicious beings in the surroundings, Jessica and Gloria galloped with the horse a little further.

Jin had said it was fine to drop them off at the gate but the princess was reluctant on parting and so made the carriage go past the gate.

Looking outside through the window of the parked carriage, the princess asked,

“Is your carriage outside?”

To that, Jin had no choice but to give an ambiguous answer, ‘Well, yes.’

“Well, that is fine. I do not want to pry into it... Well, then. Come visit again someday.”

Saying that, the Lies princess shook their hands one by one.

And then the door was opened.

Even before the stepping stone was placed, Hanna got off as she was closest to the door.

At that moment, someone appeared out of nowhere and grabbed Hanna and held a dagger to her neck.

As always, Jin had no sense of how to use money. Saying that it was the tax money and decreasing the amount... was that really a good thing to do?

The SP dedicated to Hanna were also late due to the carriage's speed...

Chapter 19

Survivors

“O-Onii-chan...”

“Hanna!”

Jin and the others had completely let their guard down. Moreover, the timing was bad as well.

Because they were travelling via carriage, the Hanna full-time SP were a bit behind. There would have been no problems whatsoever if Reiko was the first to get off. There's no point saying that now, though...

On top of that, Jessica and Gloria also went towards the forest to check. Furthermore, the man must have also been using magic tools with hide effect. The SP might have been aware of the man's presence beforehand but as his intentions were unclear, they were a bit late in coping with the situation. Misfortune kept piling up for Jin's side which was fortune for the man. (No, considering what happens next, it would probably be better to say the man was unfortunate.)

“Do-don't move! You all, get off of the carriage!”

“...Let's do as he says for now.”

Saying that, Lieschen princess jumped off from the carriage. Following her, Jin, Elsa and Reiko also jumped off.

“Princess!”

Jessica and Gloria also came back hurrying.

“You bastard! What do you think you are doing?! Let go of the child!”

But the man who restrained Hanna boldly laughed.

“Hmph, if you care for the princess’ wellbeing, stay 10 meters away from me.”

“Nn? Princess?”

Hearing that, all of them there realized. The man had mistaken Hanna, who was wearing the princess’ dress, for the princess.

But that did not comfort them either.

Slowly getting off of the carriage, Jin whispered to Reiko,

“Reiko, what is Iris and Azalea doing?”

Reiko changed her vision to infrared and answered after surveying Hanna’s surrounding,

“Yes, with just 1 more step...”

“Gyyyaaaaahhh!”

The moment Reiko started saying that, the man’s shriek could be heard.

Everyone except Jin and Reiko looked with their eyes wide open.

Before they even realized, two deep black golems had appeared. One was guarding Hanna and the other was holding down the man.

And the man’s hand was curved to an improbable direction. At about 3 points.

“Onii-chan!”

Hanna came running towards Jin with teary eyes. Jin also went running towards her, hugged her and stroked her back.

“It’s all fine now. I am sorry. I made you experience something awful.”

“No, I believed you would save me.”

Jin gazed at Iris and Azalea told them ‘Good job.’

“Wh-what are these? These pitch black golems?”

Finally, the princess was able to open her mouth to say those words.

Jin told the princess he would explain it to her later and turned to face towards the man.

“Oi, what was your aim in doing all this?”

But the man still stayed there, lying in pain and snorted.

“Alright then.”

But that wasn’t a good move for him.

“Iris. The other arm too.”

As Jin said that, Iris twisted the man’s left arm. On the other side, Jin was holding Hanna close to not let her see that.

After a breaking noise, the man’s shriek once again filled the air.

“Gyyyaaaaahhhhh!”

Jin was not a saint. He is lenient to friends and family but to that extent, he doesn’t show any mercy to his enemies. This time, the man made Hanna cry. That infuriated Jin’s wrath.

“The next will be your hip joint... This is the last time I am asking. What is your aim?”

Crying like a baby with snot dripping from the man’s nose, he opened his mouth,

“...I... want... ed... to... run... Wanted... the... carriage...”

Jin requested Elsa to give the man some pain killers so that he can speak. Nodding, Elsa said,

“Schmerzmittel.”

It stopped the pain. But both of his shoulders were still broken.

“Why did you want to run?”

Jin glared at the man. Resigning, the man confessed,

“Soon... this place will be attacked by about 50 men. They are all hooligans. I was their

ally but changed my mind and wanted to get out. To do that, I needed to bid farewell to this place as soon as possible. And so, I wanted a horse or a carriage.”

At that moment, footsteps of a great number of people could be heard from the forest.

“Mm?! It seems like he is speaking the truth.”

The princess turned pale. It would take time to even close the castle gate. The possibility of it not closing in time is higher.

“At this rate, Alban will be attacked defenseless! Jessica, Gloria, we will defend!”

“Yes, princess!”

“Roger.”

Then the princess turned her pale face towards Jin,

“Jin, you guys return inside the castle with my carriage. They probably can’t attack that easily inside the castle.”

“What about Lies-sama?”

“I will hold them back as much as I can. Don’t worry, I can use at least water ball and water bullet.”

Saying that, the princess looked at the puddle.

‘This princess intends to become a shield herself?’ Jin was appalled.

“Tia, hurry back to the castle and convey this to the soldiers inside. If they move, then 50 people or so wouldn’t be much of a problem.”

“But, princess...”

Tia hesitated. As expected of a work from the Great Magic War era, it is built well around these portions.

“.....”

Jin closed his eyes and thought for a little bit, then opened them and said clearly,

“No, Tia, you protect princess Lies. Jessica-san and Gloria-san, you just need to arrest the bandits.”

Hearing that, Elsa muttered with a low voice,

“Well, that’s like Jin-nii.”

“Y-you... What are you...”

At that moment, the head of the bandits appeared from forest. Bringing along one golem.

“Wha! They also have a golem!”

“At this rate, I doubt we will be able to hold down even half...”

The princess was surprised and Jessica was getting tensed.

“Jin-dono, you...”

And so Gloria was about to say something but paying that no heed, Jin gave instructions to Reiko.

“Reiko! Stop them! But, don’t kill them if you can.”

“Yes, father.”

Reiko kicked the ground. Or so the moment one would comprehend that, few of the bandits fluttered up in the air and were smacked to the ground.

“Yo-you people...”

“Wh-what is that girl...”

“...That’s the first time I saw someone up in the air like that.”

The princess, Jessica and Gloria, all three of them doubted their eyes.

About 50 bandits were lying face down on the ground. And the golem got blown away 20 meters by Reiko's kick and had crashed into a tree, bending in a weird way.

"I am done."

In less than a minute, Reiko had neutralized 50 people. It can't be imagined with common sense.

Even without saying anything, their eyes spoke for them. 'What are you people?'

"I am sorry but let us tie them up before that."

Saying that, Jin used the fainted bandits' belts and band like objects to tie them up. Reiko and Elsa also helped. Jessica and Gloria also came helping a bit late. And within a few minutes, they were all tied up.

"Now then. Let me ask again. What are you guys?"

Lieschen princess asked Jin. Having prepared himself, Jin decided to tell them a part of the truth.

"Ah... Yesterday, I told you about the golem incident, right, Lies-sama?"

"Ye-yes."

"At that time, the one who did the most in suppressing the rampaging golems was Reiko. She is an artifact and my precious daughter."

Placing a hand on Reiko's shoulder, Jin explained.

"Due to that, Egelia kingdom gave me the title of honorary magi craft man."

He cut off most of it but this was still true.

"So that's how it was..."

Seeing Jin's ability as a magi craft man and Reiko's power right now, they honestly felt that it was the truth.

Impressed, Jessica said,

“Even still, Reiko is quite amazing. To think she is stronger than a golem.”

“Ah, right, what happened to the black golem which saved Hanna just a while ago?”

Gloria asked while looking around. Jin answered,

“They are golems who protect from the shadows. They fell behind a bit this time, though...”

Hearing that, the princess' eyes glittered.

“As I thought, my eyes were right! Jin, won’t you make some golems for my country as well?”

‘So it did turn out like this’ Jin thought to himself. Letting out a sigh, he replied,

“Well, it would depend on the conditions.”

Chapter 20

Request

When Jin replied that it would depend on the conditions, the princess nodded, completely agreeing and said,

“Hmm, of course. Is it the compensation? Or the time needed? Ask anything because I am going to ask this of my father, the King.”

“No, it’s nothing that big. If you just promise to not constraint us, that will be fine.”

‘Of course!’ the princess promised, putting her honor on the line. Jessica and Gloria also agreed.

“The country might go under if we went against you, after all.”

The princess said jokingly but the fact that that was indeed no joke, was not known to anyone there. Even Eliza wasn’t aware of Hourai island’s real strength.

“Then, I am sorry but, could you come to the castle again after this?”

“I guess I have no choice.”

When you think about the terms and conditions, he couldn’t once take the option of returning to Kaina village. Since if they were to ask something like ‘Where are you going?’, he would be at a loss for words.

If he were to ask Laojun, he would probably be able to convey it to the Kaina village in some way.

“Eliza, Hanna, it looks like we will be a day or two late, is that okay?”

Jin asked them both with an apologetic face. But, both Eliza and Hanna accepted it with a smile.

“It’s something Jin-nii decided, after all.”

“To the princess’ place again? I am okay with that!”

Hearing that, Jin was relieved.

“Then, please get on the carriage again... Gloria, sorry but could you look over these bandits? I will send people over immediately.”

“Yes, princess!”



Getting back on the carriage, Jin and the others once again headed for the imperial castle.

They were guided to the guest room and served tea, after which they had to wait for about 30 minutes.

During that time, Jin instructed Laojun and Reiko to explain the situation to the Kaina village.

When that was done, Eliza asked,

“Jin-nii, I also want to ask you. That black golem which saved Hanna before, what was that?”

“Yes, yes, onii-chan, I want to know too!”

Jin had thought that they would come asking that sooner or later, so he explained simply,

“They don’t show themselves normally but they are guardian golems always by your sides.”

“Ohhhh! I see! Thank you, onii-chan!”

Looks like Hanna was convinced with that explanation.

“They can disappear?”

Looked like Eliza was curious about that part.

“Ahh. Reiko uses that too, right? It’s a high level magic called ‘hide’”

“I see... Got it.”

When Jin was about to say something back, Reiko pulled on his sleeve,

“Reiko?”

“Father, Kaina village is in a terrible state. It seems like recruitment order has just arrived now.”

“What?!”

Jin thought back, that it was probably 21st of April when Kurain kingdom had announced state emergency and ordered the nobles with land to form armies — it was something he heard from Laojun. That has now...

The only relief is that the war has ended.

“Onii-chan...?”

Hanna was wearing a worried expression, hearing the word ‘terrible’. Eliza, too, was worried.

To both of them, Jin explained the situation.

The war had already ended so even if they were recruiting, it wouldn’t mean danger. Moreover, he said that they would also be released soon.

Hearing that, Hanna was relieved.

“But, if only I can properly utilize the fact that I am here...”

Jin had started pondering something but at that moment, the door was opened and Lieschen princess came in.

“Jin, there’s great news! My father just said that he will meet you now!”

“Eh?”

He had hesitated for a moment there but if the king was going to come meet him directly, he could demand various things really quickly.

"Ah, also, I am sorry little sisters but please wait here... I guarantee your safety. We won't do anything."

Jin hadn't even said anything yet but as if she had read his state of mind, the princess said that while patting his back. 'They won't do anything like taking them hostage to threaten Jin'-that was what the last bit sounded like.

"I won't do anything that would turn you against me. I promise you, with my pride on the line."

And so, Jin headed for the royal palace bringing only Reiko with him. Jessica accompanied them. And Gloria was with Hanna and Eliza.

After walking through a passage for about 5 minutes, they were already inside the royal palace territory.

After walking for a further 5 minutes, Jin and the others had arrived in front of a marvelous door.

"This is father's office. The prime minister is with him now."

Saying that, Lieschen princess informed them that she had brought Jin and instructed Jessica to open the door.

From inside the room, a voice said 'Come in' and the princess urged Jin to enter. Reiko was close to Jin like a shadow.

"Father, I have brought the Honorary Magi Craft Man from Egelia kingdom, Jin-dono."

"Hmm."

On the other side of a thick wooden office desk was the Kurain kingdom's king, Alois the Third.

The princess whispered to Jin to introduce himself.

"I am Jin Nidou. This is Reiko, an automata."

Jin bowed. Reiko was still standing beside. As they weren't expecting any courtesy from an automata, nobody there said anything.

"I am Alois the Third, King of the Kurain kingdom."

The king introduced himself.

Alois the Third was a man of about 50 years old with a sturdy physique, being about 75 kgs and 175 cm tall.

He had dark-brown hair which had resembled those of Lieschen princess. His eyes were grey, brimming with strictness.

On his right hand side, a skinny middle aged man was standing. On his left was a big muscular man.

“I am the prime minister, Powell. He is the Imperial Guard Leader, Gren Dabrode.”

The prime minister did give a slight bow but the man called Gren Dabrode just stood there.

But Jin wasn't someone who would be mindful of such trivial matters. Rather, he didn't even care about the leader.

And then, the place was silent for a while.

Standing in the middle, just when the princess was about to say something, Alois the Third opened his mouth.

“...Just when I thought we would finally meet... to think you had become Egelia kingdom's property.”

“Ha?”

“Firstly, sorry. Although it was because of a misunderstanding, I ended up chasing you away from the Kaina village. I apologize for that.”

Saying that, even though it was just a little, Alois the Third bowed his head. Seeing that, the prime minister and the imperial guard leader were a little flustered.

A king of a country, bowing his head out of apology to a normal citizen-

“You have created the pump, developed the gas burner and repelled the golems which were a hindrance to tax collecting — that much is certain, yes?”

“...Yes.”

Jin couldn't help but nod.

“As I thought. I heard about you from Lishia Farheight. I wanted to welcome you as the Honorary Magi Craft Man but due to an unfortunate blunder — no, because of our

ineptitude, we ended up bothering you.”

He was probably talking about that time when Count Walter came to arrest Jin as if he was a criminal.

“Because of that, you had gone to Egelia, eh... I heard that there was an incident of golems going berserk, right? I have heard that there the Magi craft man and his golem played a very active part in stopping it.”

And there Lieschen princess complemented,

“Father, I have heard from Jin. That the one who did a lot of the work there was also that automata over there, Reiko.”

“Oho? As I thought. Her appearance is like a charming lady but she’s hiding absurd amount of strength, eh?”

The king gazed at Reiko with admiration. Even receiving that gaze, Reiko was as calm as ever.

“You have my gratitude, Reiko. I have heard from Lies just now. That you had neutralized 50 bandits and a golem who were about to attack the city.”

Being told that, Reiko opened her mouth for the first time after entering,

“I just followed my father’s order, that’s all.”

“Hmm, I am also grateful to you too, Jin.”

And so the king finally moved onto the main topic,

“Jin-dono, I want you to use your abilities to make high efficiency golems for our country. You might have already noticed but, we are lacking both labour and talented people. Just that day, our strife with the neighboring country, Francis kingdom, ended but still, as expected, we couldn’t fill that hole.”

And then he exchanged looks with the minister. The minister slightly nodded and looked over the memo in his hand and said,

“According to the reports, 100 tons of steel and bronze, 25 tons of aluminium, few tons of adamantine and misril, etc, are being transported from Tetrada to here. It will probably arrive tomorrow or the day after”

There, he looked at Jin and said,

“In other words, even if you use that much material, it wouldn’t hurt the country’s reserves.”

He paused. However, Jin also knew that that wasn’t the exact value. Because a part of the transported materials were the Kurain kingdoms’ soldiers’ arsenal.
And then, the king continued again,

“And so, Jin, I want to ask you to make 100 steel swords and 20 general purpose golems which can also endure battles.”

Chapter 21

Jin, activate

100 silver swords and 20 all-purpose golems which can even endure battles.

“Do you want the swords to be long swords? Also, what about the specification of the golems?”

It was an obvious question. He couldn’t give his answer unless he is properly aware of what to make. The prime minister, Powell, answered to that question,

“Yes, I would like the swords to be long swords. There are also samples, so please take a look afterwards.”

But the problem were the golems.

“What would be the main use and size of the golems?”

“To be bodyguards. The miscreants you repelled today—against raids like that, we have far too few soldiers. In the first place, our country is...”

And so the brief explanation went on. Kurain kingdom’s knights and imperial soldiers are career soldiers and they would be about 700 in total. Their army as a whole would have around 4000 units. Kurain kingdom’s population is about 100,000 so this should be their limit. Jin deemed the information they provided to be true. Just that they are still probably hiding the existence of their spies. Laojun was already aware of about 50 spies.

“Considering our forces, we don’t have the scope to attack other countries.”

And so the prime minister brought his talk to a finish.
If it were for defense, Jin wouldn’t resist much either.

“I would like it a bit big... hmm, let’s see... about 2 meters I would say. It would really help if they are also able to work as combat engineers as well.”

Even Jin was aware that Tetrada's castle walls were out of shape. He probably wants to use them there as well. He could also understand why the minister wanted swords.

"All that's left is your remuneration. For all of it combined, we will give 40,000,000 toll. If they are well done, we will add another 10,000,000 toll. We can't go much higher than that."

If the Kurain kingdom is providing all the materials needed then that's just the remuneration for his labor. When thought like that, it is about just the market price. Although, Jin only knew the market price of the Egelia kingdom.

"I will accept."

He had his own thoughts about it but Jin decided to accept those conditions.

"Ohh, that's a relief."

The king gave a broad smile. The princess, and even Jessica, couldn't hide their joy that the negotiations went well. The knight squad leader Gren was relieved, even though he didn't show it. The order details were written on two different papers and the parchments were handed to the prime minister and Jin. Jin let Reiko hold his one. He could rest easy that way. By the way, Jin intentionally didn't ask about the delivery date. He was confident he could finish it up faster than what they had planned and he also didn't want to stay away from Kaina too long. On the other hand, the minister also didn't ask about the delivery date but his thoughts were completely opposite to that Jin. He had estimated that this order would take him at least a month. In his heart, he had planned to build up good relationship with the Egelia kingdom and if possible bring Jin over here within this month. He was even considering sending Leischen princess there for that purpose and make her marry Egelia kingdom's third prince, Earnest, if need be. But even that was only for the country—and that was what made the prime minister the prime minister. However, it was Jin who would end up simply destroying all his plans unconsciously.

"Umm, are the materials gathered?"

Being told to work out all the details with prime minister, Jin headed towards the castle's first floor workshop. They let him use the workshop exclusively and even gave him the key.

It seems this was normally used to make weapons and armors for the soldiers. Although, naturally, it couldn't be used to make weapons for all the soldiers so it was mainly used to make particular weapons but there was no one in charge now. Even at a place like this, their lack of human resource could be seen.

"Yes, as I mentioned earlier, the materials will reach here shortly but there is also no problem in using the ones in stock. The inventory is underground. Just show the official in charge this license and they will let you pass."

Thinking that he would take about a month to finish either way, the minister wanted to show his generosity and so handed Jin the permit.

Receiving that, Jin asked if there was any limit to it. To which the minister replied 'None'. He even went as far as to say that to complete the order, he didn't mind whatever Jin used.

And for their lodging until the order was done, the minister said they could use the royal villa as per Lieschen princess' instructions.

"I heard your sisters are also there. I am glad it is also helping the princess from boredom. This will be your permit for coming and going."

Jin also received the permit to enter and leave the castle. Thinking that his work was done here, the minister said, 'Then, I'll leave it to you' and was about to leave when Jin called out again,

"Ah, what shall I do when I am done?"

It seemed like the minister thought he was asking where to put the completed products.

"There is an adjoined armory so I would like you to hand over them to the person in charge there. For the golems, hmm, let's see... there is a guard office which isn't normally used at the end of the corridor, it would be really helpful if you could carry them there."

Jin also missed the chance to ask what he intended to so he just nodded. But, what he really wanted to ask was,

"So, if I am done with all of them?"

At first the minister thought he was being quite hasty but then re-thought that Jin was probably confirming everything since Jin might not get a chance to talk with him soon.

“Lieschen princess normally doesn’t have anything special to do and so should be pretty free so I think it would be faster if you were to just ask her”

From the way he talked, Jin thought they were underestimating the princess. However, he didn’t say anything there.

“Understood.”

He just gave his reply. And this time for sure, the minister left.

“Now then, first, I guess I will need to procure the materials.”

Jin went towards the material inventory alongside Reiko. Just as the minister had said, when they showed the permit, they were gladly allowed into the inventory.

“Alright, first we get metal ingredients. 4 ton steel. 1 kg adamantite. 5 kg mithril. Oh, there seems to be some red arsenic nickel ore in the corner. It has quite a lot of impurities but can still be used.”

Even though it really looked like the copper could be extracted from the deep red arsenic nickel ore, it couldn’t be extracted. Instead, it would just leave arsenic and an unidentified gold.

It is an ore which was also mined in the Hourai island and it was unidentified for quite a long time period. It is not weird for the Kurain kingdom to have a lot of it.

“I guess they are worthy of praise even for not throwing it away.”

Saying that, Jin added it to the material list.

“So next is magi crystal, eh?”

When he went searching a different shelf, he found yet another different material. He had guessed what it was upon seeing it but still used analyze just to be sure. It was the dragon eel’s hide.

The dragon eel is a herbivorous with a dragon-like head and a huge eel body. The big ones even reach 3 meters. It can be collected from the Manuze Lake east of the capital

Alban or from Sedoria lake which is south from the capital.

The meat has too much oil but depending on the preparation, it can be tasty. More importantly, its hide is weak but carries mana so can be used in weapons or magic tools.

It was stocked in Hourai Island as well so Jin recognized it.

It is a bit more better for magical muscle than sand worm's hide but really low in quality compared to the grand spider's threads.

Lastly, he prepared the materials needed for the swords' sheath, guard and pattern. For the sheath, he got strongly tanned hide. For the guard, brass, and for the pattern, he got hardwood.

“Alright, this wraps it up.”

It would be bulky and impossible if they tried to carry it all at once but if it's Reiko, she can carry it all with just a few round-trips. The officer in charge was astonished with his eyes wide open.

The time was around 4 PM.

“Well then, let's start.”

Jin started by separating the nickel from the deep red arsenic nickel ore. By the way, the ore was too big and bulky so he was doing the separation at the inventory and not the workshop. He had also taken the officer's permission.

“Smelting”

He was able to separate about 350 kgs of nickel from the 20 ton ore. Arsenic is dangerous so he just left it in ore form in the inventory.

When 5.5% of nickel is mixed with steel, it is called 5 half nickel steel and with its characteristics, the resistance to corrosion and abrasion increases.

Jin took 233 kgs of nickel. (Of course, making Reiko do the carrying.)

“Alloying”

His ingot and nickel quickly unified and became homogeneous. With this, he was done preparing 233 tons of 5 half nickel steel.

Using this, Jin first built up the frame of the golem.

He based the template on the SP adult male of Hourai island. He was quickly done finishing the first one.

“Hmmm, so I used about 122 kgs, eh? I guess that’s enough.”

After confirming the amount he had used, with that momentum, he finished making the remaining 19 golems as well. The workshop was off limits for the time being so fortunately, there was no one who could witness this. No, maybe it was unfortunate that he couldn’t see how they would react.

If there was someone watching, they might have questioned their sanity. That was how abnormally fast Jin’s production rate was.

Of course, he also made the joints with adamantite coating.

It was also kinda unfortunate that no one was able to witness the phenomenon of the transformation of the adamantite.

But even still, it had taken some time to prepare the materials so by the time he finished up frames for 20 golems, it was past 5 PM.

“I guess I will do the rest tomorrow.”

Saying that, Jin locked the workshop and returned to the villa. The automata waiting at the entrance guided him in. It was an automata Jin had fixed.



At the royal villa, Hanna, Elsa and Lieschen princess were playing together. No, there was one more person — Gloria.

“Ah, welcome baack!”

“Welcome back, Jin-dono. Thank you for your work.”

“Ohh, Jin, you’re back. This ‘sugoroku’ game thingie is pretty interesting!”

“So you’re back, Jin-dono.”

That was certainly sugoroku. They had played it to pass time in Egelia kingdom. Looks like Elsa still remembered it.

Looks like Elsa made the pieces and dice with the engineering magic she learnt recently. The princess was red, Hanna was yellow and Elsa was green. And Gloria was blue.

“Many people can play it at once, the course also changes every time which makes it even better. Above all else, the rules are really simple too.”

Looks like Lieschen princess was getting pretty passionate about sugoroku.

“Now then, since Jin has returned... Ohh, it is already past 5.”

The princess stood up, saying, ‘It’s almost time for dinner’.

“Was it okay for me to also join you?”

Gloria said, feeling sorry.

“It’s fine, it’s fine. The menu isn’t that grand either.”

The princess said smiling. Certainly, when seen from the royalty’s perspective, it would fall into the simple category, but from the common person’s view, it was quite a feast.

After the meal, warm lemonade was served.

“Wah, tasty!”

Hanna was delighted by its taste. It seemed Elsa had had it before so she wasn’t surprised but maybe it was a taste she liked — one could tell she was happy.

“Mmm, is this honey’s sweetness?”

Drinking one mouthful, Jin expressed his thoughts. ‘Yes’, replied the princess and looked at Tia. Comprehending the meaning behind the glance, Tia started explaining,

“Yes, this drink was made from lemon fruit’s juice and honey. I am surprised you realized.”

But Jin didn’t say that it was because the taste was exactly like honey-lemon.

“Honey is Lenard kingdom’s specialty and is mostly not sold in the marketplace but

you had it before, didn't you?"

Having finished saying that, the princess also drank a mouthful and faced Gloria and urged her to explain what happened afterwards with the bandits.

Chapter 22

Golem Complete

“They were all underlings of the Unifiers.”

Gloria had started briefing them about the details she acquired by interrogating the thugs Jin (or rather Reiko) had suppressed.

They were unrelated to the people who caused the golem uproar the previous day.

“It seems they had only received orders to attack Alban during the afternoon that day.”

She continued explaining, saying that they had received quite the half-baked orders, that they could just do as they please if they went berserk.

“No matter how I think about it, I come to the conclusion that their aim was to create chaos.”

She brought the briefing to a finish.

“The guy who tried to kidnap Hanna... well, I would say he was the more logical one out of the rest. He probably thought he wouldn’t go unscathed after attacking Alban. He confessed everything during the interrogation.”

She also added that they didn’t really know all the details themselves. Although, Jin probably knew more than anyone in the room about what was actually going on behind the scenes.

“I don’t know how much you know, Jin-dono, but from the information we received, it seems that the battle which broke out in Tetrada was brought to an end by a mysterious force. The Frantz kingdom’s army withdrew. You could call it one sort of a cease-fire.”

Jin also knew well about that. It was he who did it, after all.

“To summarize, I think it is okay to say that the small countries have become stable.

“Although the post-war conference with the Frantz kingdom has not been held yet.”

Although Jin was somewhat curious, he really just wanted to leave the political problems to the countries. However, there was one point he could not yield.

“Did the Frantz kingdom not do the recruitment?”

Jin had known that the order of recruitment had reached village Kaina.

“Hmm, the nobles who control territory have probably received instructions to send out soldiers in response to the population.”

It was princess Lieschen who answered. She seems to possess a good deal of knowledge, considering her age, which just goes to show her brilliance.

“Won’t it get withdrawn?”

That was what Jin was most curious about.

Gloria answered that question,

“It will probably get withdrawn within a day or two. I say that ’cause the knights will be returning from Tetrada around that time.”

She went on to say that it might not get withdrawn depending on the chivalry of knights’ loss and condition.

And finished saying that it was because they didn’t clearly know if this had brought the war with the Frantz kingdom to an end.

“I see.”

Hearing that explanation, Jin thought that he needed to take some more measures.



That night as well, Jin and the others were in the same bedroom as before. It was dimly lit with a magic lamp.

Hanna started yawning so they started to prepare for bed. Or rather, they just changed to night-clothes.

It was something which was provided with the room. He could tell it was silk from the

feel.

While wondering about trifling things such as where they got the silk from, Jin changed his clothes. At that moment,

“Hanna-chan, you wanna sleep together today?”

Elsa asked Hanna.

When he heard that, he suddenly understood. That even though it was only for a short while, being captured during the afternoon was probably a shock to her.

At the same time, he reflected on the feeling that he wasn’t able to be considerate enough. And feeling grateful towards Elsa, Jin closed his eyes for the night.



The following day, after having breakfast, Jin was going to the royal palace’s workshop for the commission but,

“Lies-sama, can I take Elsa to the royal palace as an assistant?”

Jin asked, knowing that he would probably not be allowed. But to his surprise, the princess easily gave her permission.

“Hey~ hey~ princess, can I go too?”

Hanna also asked the princess.

To which she also gave her permission easily.

Moreover,

“Hmmm, it would be boring if both Hanna and Elsa were to go. I shall stick along as well.”

And as she said that,

“Princess! Then I shall accompany you too!”

said Gloria, who happened to be present there. Who knows if it was to guard the princess or just out of simple curiosity.

And so, they headed to the workshop altogether.

Jin thought that there would be trouble but as the gate guard was the vice leader of

the imperial knight guards and the princess was there as well, they were all able to get into the workshop.

“Oohh! So this is the golem you’ve been making, Jin!”

“Wahh, so cool!”

Upon seeing the frames of 20 golems, the princess got excited. Hanna was also having fun. Elsa had seen it a few times so she didn’t show any reaction.

And Gloria went,

“Hmmm, so this is the framework of a golem. It will be helpful as a reference.”

But there was no one there who would inform her that taking that as a reference was not going to do her any good.

“First, we will add the muscles.”

Saying that, Jin started processing the leather of the draconic eel.

“Elsa, look closely. In separation engineering magic, it is most important to be aware of the amount.”

As he explained, Jin went on separating the leather into needed proportions

“We could also separate it by cutting but there’s a chance of cutting the fibre and the construction of the leather that way so we will go with engineering magic here.”

“Hm, Jin-nii.”

Even while explaining, Jin didn’t stop working. He kept on dividing the draconic eel one after the other with separation magic.

The arm muscles, leg muscles, waist, shoulders and the neck muscles. Each of these parts have a very subtle difference but as Jin had the ‘template’ of it in the back of his head, he could make progress with his work without hesitation.

It only took 15 mins till the muscles were ready. His speed was astounding.

“Alright, now we will add these. Reiko, help me. Elsa, you’re still not ready for this so watch properly.”

“Yes.”

“Yes, Jin-nii.”

Reiko had helped Jin on countless occasions and as such, her skills were easily better than most magi craftsman except Jin.

Even the complicated and bothersome work of adding magical muscle to 20 golems were only a matter of 20 mins for Jin and Reiko.

“Mmm, it is somewhat a little creepy...”

“You think so? I think it is fun.”

Princess Leischen was taken aback a little but Hanna was fine as she saw dressings of mountain deers in the village.

“We will now make the essential magi device. I would like you to help with this as well, Elsa.”

Saying that, Jin took the magi crystal and mythril.

He asked Elsa to make the mythril-made casing. Of course, they also added anti-servitude-renewal magic.

He created a sample and told her to make it like that. During that time, Jin went on creating the mana tank, mana driver and the control core.

Looking at the magi crystal Jin had in his hand, the princess said,

“Hmm, such a pretty all element magi crystal.”

As expected, she did have the general knowledge on magi crystals.

“Writing.”

A dim light emitted from the magi crystal and just when the magi language emerged into the surroundings it went back into the crystal and disappeared.

“That’s one done.”

“Ooohhh?! So that is engineering magic...”

Witnessing the magic which falls into the showy region out of all the engineering magic Jin had used, the princess was quite pleased. She eagerly watched Jin carve in all the magi formula into the magi crystal.

To create the total 120 magi crystals, it only took him about half an hour. Even then, Jin was still restraining. If he was serious, he could be 3 times as fast.

“Elsa, how is it coming along on your end?”

He asked Elsa, who was making the mithril casing with ‘forming’.

“I will be done with another 3.”

Taking Jin’s training, although their processing method was very specific, Elsa had already gotten above the standards. Even though she herself didn’t realize it yet. After all, she hadn’t really watched her cousin making them and her only comparison target was Jin.

Jin also helped so they were quickly done with 20 casings.

“Alright, now we install this...”

“Into the chest portion, was it?”

Seems like Elsa was starting to learn the procedure.

Jin intentionally worked slowly to let Elsa understand and put in the magi device into the chest portion.

“Um, mana tank, mana driver and control core, right?”

“Right. Good job remembering the mana tank.”

Jin didn’t really make many golems with the mana tank so he was impressed that Elsa was able to recall.

“At count Kuzuma’s place.”

Right, the golem, Lotte, which they had created at Blueland’s count Kuzuma’s place was also made with mana tank. Elsa might have started to want to become a magi

craftsman since then.

A thin line of mythril to the control core-meaning, connecting the magic nerves with engineering magic to the head, limbs and trunk.

He loaded the surrounding of the control core with 'glutton sponge' to cushion it. And went on installing the eyeballs and speaking device into the head. This time, he fixated the mouth. In other words, it would not be able to change expressions.

It took about two and a half hours.

The princess and Gloria were watching with overflowing enthusiasm as Jin worked. Hanna looked restless, though.

"Alright, now we add the armor."

Seeing about 50 kgs of 5 half nickel steel which were extended on a board turned into armor and equipped into the golems was quite fascinating.

Even Hanna was watching this without saying anything.

Reiko was in charge of separating the 5 half nickel steel into 60 kg clumps and extending them.

It took about 3 minutes on one. And about an hour later, 20 golems were completed.

"Ohhh, you're already done!"

To the excited princess, Jin said,

"Now I would like to take the golem's movement test. Would anyone like to participate? If possible, a male guard, please."

To which, the princess tilted her head and thought.

"A man would be okay, you say? Then I could call someone from the imperial knight guards."

The princess asked Gloria, Gloria ordered a guard to bring someone from the imperial guards and within a few minutes, a young knight had arrived before them.

"Thanks for coming, Lash. I would like you to be opponent for the test."

"Opponent, you say?"

There, the princess introduced him to Jin and the others.

“He is the magi craftsman, Jin. He is making general-use golems for my father.”

“I am Jin.”

“I am Heintz Lash.”

Jin and Heintz shaked hands.

Chapter 23

Secret Copying

Heintz Lash introduced himself as the second son of the baron Lash. His hair was brownish-yellow and his eyes were aqua. He was pretty sturdy.

“He is very promising even among the young knights.”

The princess complimented him. Hearing that, Lash seemed a bit embarrassed.

“S-so, princess, what would you like me to do?”

“Hmm, listen to Jin over here.”

Heintz turned to face Jin.

“Heintz-dono, I would like it if you give some of your time in measuring the strength of these newly made golems.”

Jin explained. But even after receiving the explanation, Heintz looked like he didn’t quite understand what Jin meant.

“By the way, as a knight, you fight with a spear or a sword, right?”

“Hmm? Yes.”

And without a moment’s delay, Jin used magic.

“Transfer Info-Mild lv4.”

It was his first time trying the mild option.

There aren’t many people who would be happy if their memories and knowledge were copied so he used ‘Transfer Info’ silently so they don’t notice. He wouldn’t be able to properly explain himself either, after all.

He copied it to the last piece of magi crystal he brought from the Hourai island.

“Decompile’...Hmm, seems to be fine.”

Jin confirmed that his magic had successfully worked.

“Jin-dono, so what do I need to do, exactly?”

Heintz asked once again. Looks like he didn’t notice what had happened at all. It was a big success then.

Jin told Heintz,

“Please wait a little. I will be activating this golem now so could you maybe do a simple sham battle with it?”

Heintz had also heard that Jin was working on a request directly from the king so he gladly accepted.

“I see, so that’s how it is. I understand. I am looking forward to fighting it.”

Jin copied the necessary information from the magi crystal on his hand to the golem’s control core.

“Alright, ‘activate’”

He poured in some mana and activated the mana driver. The mana tank was filled up beforehand.

In accordance with Jin’s words, one of the golem rose up.

“Ooohh?!”

“Ooh!!”

“It moved!”

The three who were watching, princess, Gloria and Heintz, all expressed excitement in their voice. Elsa and Hanna were pretty accustomed to the sight so they didn’t really react much.

“How does your body feel?”

“Yes, Creator-sama, there are no abnormalities.”

“Alright.”

Jin quickly made two sham swords from the remaining 2 ingots of iron and handed one each to Heintz and the golem.

“Then, please go ahead. It’s completely fine to go lightly. I would feel really bad if you were to get injured because of this.”

“I understand.”

All of them moved to the backyard.

Seeing such a rare sight, free attendants, soldiers and knights gathered to watch what was going to happen from afar.

Heintz took off the sword he had on his waist.

“I shall hold that for you.”

Gloria approached him, gave a slight bow and received the sword.

After swinging the sham sword a few times to get the feel, Heintz glanced at Jin. Perceiving that glance as a sign to start, Jin announced the start.

“Well then, please start.”

“Let’s go!”

Heintz gave a nod and slashed the golem diagonally from the shoulder.

The golem lightly parried the slash, took one step forward and slashed sideways. Heintz dodged that with quick and nimble movements. Seeing that, the golem took a further two steps in.

But Heintz moved towards the side and not towards the back, and slashed over the golem’s shoulder.

“Ohh, I don’t know what’s going on but it’s amazing!”

Said the princess, who was watching from a distance.

Heintz was like the top in terms of skill among the young knights.

Jin was also delighted, seeing that he would get some good data from this. After all, all of Heintz martial arts were now being copied to the magi crystal in Jin's pocket now.

“Do your best, you two!”

The princess cheered on them both. But the moment she did, the swords in their hands broke. Not really surprising either, as they were very simply made for a mock battle.

“That's enough.”

Jin announced the end and bowed deeply to Heintz to show his gratitude.

“Heintz-dono, thank you very much.”

“No, thank you. This golem would be our country's from now on, right? Then it would be really reliable. I should be the one saying thank you.”

“Jin, you're amazing! As I thought, my eyes were right!”

The princess was really hyped.

The gallery of the people looking from afar were also impressed. But since they couldn't really shout out loudly in the open, they just clapped.

“Then, please excuse me.”

Heintz gave a slight bow and went back.

Jin and the others returned to the workshop once again. And then Jin stopped the golem which he just activated just now and checked its parts.

“Hmm, no problems anywhere. Then I guess I will finish up on the remaining 19.”

Saying that to himself, he went on filling in information in the control core using transfer info.

He was done with all the work in about 10 minutes.

“Jin, are you done?”

Trying to hide her excited face but being unable to do so, princess Leischen asked Jin.

“Yes, I am done. I will activate them now.”

Saying that, he went on activating one after another.

“Ohh, ohhh?”

It was a magnificent view, 20 shining, silver, gray golems standing in a line.

“Alright, all units, check your movements.”

Following Jin’s orders, all 20 of the golems shook their hands, bent their legs and twisted their bodies to check their movements. And then answered all at once,

“No abnormalities.”

Hearing that, Jin gave a broad grin for a moment but soon returned to his usual expression.

“Alright. Now then, I will give you all temporary names. From the right, Nick 1, 2, 3 all the way to the most left one, Nick 20.”

“Understood.”

He also added that he gave the name ‘Nick’ from nickel.

Even the golems made in the same method start to develop different personality from the way they are treated. The first step to which is the name.

It was a good place to leave off so they decided to have lunch.

With the princess leading the way, they returned to the villa. The preparations there were already complete.

The automatas kept lining up dishes one after the other. Seeing the automatas move so energetically felt good.

It was lunchtime, so in order to not make it too heavy, the menu was bread, soup, salad and juice.

But even then, the bread was pure white, the soup had many different kinds of vegetable and perfectly boiled venison in it and the salad also consisted of vegetables freshly picked this morning. And finally, the juice was of pelshika.

Pelshika was quite valuable in the Kurain kingdom so one could comprehend that the

princess worked quite hard to get them for Jin and the others.

“Uwaa, so sweet and delicious!”

The pelshika juice made from squeezing pelshikas was thick and, even without adding sugar, it was really sweet. That sweetness was natural so the aftertaste was also refreshing.

Even Elsa looked like she liked the juice.

“Was it really okay for me to join in on the meal...?”

Gloria said, feeling thankful.

“What are you talking about? If we inquire on the origin of all this, didn’t it all start from you asking Jin to make some swords? In other words, it is your achievement.”

Gloria was even more thankful after being told so by the princess.



He would make swords in the afternoon. The swords he would be making this time won’t be short swords but rather the general, long swords.

It is called long compared to the short but it isn’t extraordinarily long or anything. A strong man can even swing it with one hand and it is made mainly for thrusting rather than slashing.

“Now then, the model... the prime minister said he would prepare one but... ah, there it is.”

Jin gave orders to Reiko to bring the necessary materials.

Reiko was better at measuring without contact as her vision was special. From swords’ weights to girls’ underwear, Reiko could grasp it all.

“Father, I think this much would be enough.”

Reiko brought out 2.2 kgs of 5 half nickel steel.

“Alright.”

Saying that, Jin was about to take it but suddenly recalled something important.

The golems' finishing will probably be checked so setting them to be this strong would be good. They might refuse if the golems are too weak.

What did Jin smile there for?

One would understand before long. And also about the magi crystal in his pocket with all of Heintz's martial art in it.

Chapter 24

100 Swords

Although 5.5 nickel steel is very tough, it is not quite suited for blades. This is because of the excess nickel which leaves quite a bit of austenite and therefore reduces the hardness. And as such, Jin started by separating the nickel from the remaining ingots. It takes two times the effort but he still has to do it.

“‘Extraction’: nickel.”

Out of the 1.79 tons of 5.5 nickel steel, 98 kgs of nickel was separated. The remaining pure carbon steel was more than enough to make 100 swords.

“Okay then, Elsa. How about practicing ‘separation’?”

Jin told Elsa to come closer. And then he began explaining.

“Listen well, Elsa. The trick to ‘separation’ is to properly grasp the amount. And you do that by feeling the weight. 1 gram each so for 10, 10 grams. For 100, 100 grams. It’s just a repetition of that.”

“Hmm, I do understand the logic behind it.”

“The vital point is to grasp how much makes 1 gram. Start from there.”

By explaining the things he does solely based on his instinct alone, his understanding of the concept also deepened. And at the same time, he also realized how extremely similar his predecessor’s thinking was to the current Earth’s science.

Of course, not all of it. Just the parts about visualizing things digitally and handling materials all the way down to the atoms.

Moreover, it took him quite a while to realize but, the joints on the golems are really similar to the humans and one wouldn’t be able to think so far if they hadn’t known anatomy.

(My predecessor might have also been summoned...)

Jin was thinking of such a thing, but there weren't anyone present who could possibly have an answer for him.

“Separation”

Jin shifted his attention to Elsa. She was using ‘separation’ with her utmost effort and was trying to separate 1 gram.

“Looks like you’re able to use separation without problems now. All that’s left is to perceive the 1 gram.”

They say a skilled artisan can check the level surface with just their palms. Of course, magi craft meisters also possess that skill but even without that, humans’ eye measurement is surprisingly good.

A skilled carpenter can even tell apart boards with thickness of 3 and 4 millimeters and an experienced driver can also tell the difference in the tire’s air pressure.

In short, depending on how much you are used to it, you can reach a certain level. The higher that level, the closer they can get to magi craft meisters.

“Separation’...how was it this time?”

After doing it for a few dozen times, Elsa was getting much better at it.

“Yep, it’s pretty good. Now then, let’s try taking out 2.2 kgs this time. Reiko, handle the adjustments.”

“Yes, father... Elsa-san, let’s do it.”

“Hmm.”

And so, Reiko inspected the parts Elsa separated and did the more minute adjustments to the amount.

At first, she was making it too big or too small but after doing about 30 times, the difference gradually kept decreasing.

“Hmm, Elsa-dono is quite amazing as well.”

Said Gloria, impressed with Elsa's growth. She too didn't know any normal magi craftsman and so didn't comprehend how extraordinary this was.

Princess Lieschen was deeply interested in magi crafts and was eagerly watching. Hanna too liked to see Jin work and so was watching quietly but as one would expect, seeing them make 2.2 kilo portions over and over again did seem to make her lose interest.

Jin could tell that and so took the 70 portions which were done and began to make the swords.

“Forming”

The clump of steel gave off a faint light and started changing form in the blink of an eye. And soon took the form of a sword. Time elapsed to make one: 5 seconds. But even then, Jin was holding back. If he had gone all out, he could have finished it in a second.

“Ohhh, amazing! Jin-dono, is it okay if I take a look at it?!”

Gloria couldn't stay quiet. Jin smiled and handed over the sword.

“I haven't yet attached the patterns, though.”

Taking the sword, Gloria walked a bit further from everyone and tried swinging a little.

“Yep, this is great! I don't really use long swords much but this is really easy to use.”

“Really? I tried taking the sample sword and Heintz-san's sword as reference.”

Hearing that, Gloria couldn't help but be surprised. And at the same time, the princess also raised her voice,

“What?! You understood the details of the sword in such a short period of time?!”

“What?! Heintz-dono's sword is unsigned but is quite sharp!”

Although the points they were surprised about were different.

“Well, it's a relief if it turned out good.”

Saying that, he went back to work. Elsa and Reiko were done making the last portions.

“‘Forming’. ‘Forming’. ‘Forming’.”

He kept finishing swords. And within 15 minutes, he was done making a 100.

“Th—that’s fast...”

Both Gloria and the princess watched with their eyes wide open.

“All that’s left is the tempering, I guess.”

Mumbling that, Jin started explaining to Elsa again.

“‘Heat treatment’. ‘Shaving’. ‘Finishing’. ‘Hardening’.”

Seeing Jin do 10 swords like that at once, the ones watching were lost for words. It took him about 30 seconds to do the sequence and about 5 minutes to finish doing 100 swords.

“Now, I just need to do the sheathe, the guards and the pattern. Elsa can do this too.”

“‘Tsuba’?” (The pronunciation for ‘guard on swords’ in Japanese.)

“Ah, it’s ‘guard’.”

“Ah if that’s it then I got it.”

And so Jin prepared the materials and the leather he would use for the guard and the hardwood for the pattern.

He asked Elsa to do the brass on the guard.

He made a sample and told her to make it like that.

“I will do the minute tuning so go all out.”

“Mm, got it.”

Elsa separated the brass needed for the guard from the brass clump. Watching her work, Jin was impressed by how much she grew in this short period of time.

Moreover, after seeing her also make the forms with 'forming', he was assured that he could leave it to her and went on to work on the sheathe and pattern.

Reiko was in charge of gathering the materials and Jin was processing them. And in the blink of an eye, the sheathes and patterns were being done.

"Waah, cool!"

Even Hanna looked happy watching this. This was also done within 10 minutes. Elsa was done with about 20 at that point.

"Sorry for being so slow."

She was apologizing with a sorry face but it's just that Jin was too absurdly fast and that she was actually also quite fast to be working with him. It's a tragedy everyone with very capable siblings go through.

Jin installed the guards into the swords and planted the patterns and finished it up with some more minute adjustments. If they just add the sheathe now, the sword would be complete.

For what it matters, Jin used 'soft tracing' to change the sheathes color little by little. Every 10 swords, the swords went from close to white tea color to dark tea color. It was a gradation of tea color.

"Hmm, it looks quite pretty."

Gloria was also admiring it. Prince Lieschen and Hanna were both gazing at it. Looks like they aren't bored.

After using all the guards Elsa had made, Jin also started helping her out in making guards.

And 100 swords were done a little after 2 30 pm.

"This makes the whole set complete."

"Got to see some really nice stuff today."

Sword maniac Gloria was also satisfied.

"Alright, now all that's left is to hand it over to the minister... hey, you over there, go call the minister. Tell him that Jin has completed the order."

Princess Lieschen told a guard who just happened to pass the workshop at that moment to go call the prime minister.

On the inside, Jin was a bit worried thinking 'can the prime minister be called out that easily?' but that ended being needless worries.

The minister literally came flying.

"J-j-j-j-j-j-j-j-j-j-jin-donoo, it is completeeeeeeeeedd?!"

Then came the accompanying guard, amazed at how fast the minister came rushing.

"Hoho, so even Powell makes that kind of a face, huh?"

Princess Lieschen was having fun seeing the usual stern looking minister panic like that.

"Haa, haa, haa..."

Having ran all the way to the workshop with all his strength, the minister was now wiping off sweat and breathing heavily.

"You don't need to hurry that much, now do you?"

"Hohohohoho, did you really finish all 20 golems and 100 swords?!"

He came asking Jin.

"Yes, please have a look."

Jin pointed inside the workshop.

There stood 20 brilliantly shining grey golems with 5 swords in each of their hands.

"S-s-so, it is really true..."

"Ah, yes, although it was from the middle, Gloria and I also watched. Certainly, Jin was the one who made all these."

For some reason, the princess being boastful.

At that moment, just when Jin thought that that marks the order as complete,

“As if the swords a magi craftsman made will be of any use in actual battle!”

Such a bothersome voice echoed throughout the workshop.

Chapter 25

Reward

“Minister! Why did someone like you make such a request?!”

The owner of that voice was a sturdy, middle-aged man.

“Bolton, you’re being noisy.”

The minister rebuked but the man wouldn’t listen.

“Arms are only to be forged! The swords made by striking steel are harder to break and the shields made with multiple layers of iron are far more tougher. I am sure you know these swords made with cast metal will break in no time at all and be of no use. It is the same for the arms made by a magi craftsman. Have you forgotten what happened the year before the last?! Even if they do not break, they bend quickly! They can’t cut. Telling the soldiers to use such arms is the same as telling them to die! It is insane! I am strongly opposed to this!”

He finished saying all that in one breath. Just when they were feeling a sort of *déjà vu*,

“...Father...”

Gloria muttered with a tired face. Seems like this man called Bolton is Gloria’s father. She resembles him quite a lot... Unfortunately.

Hearing her daughter’s voice, he realized she was there as well.

“Ohh, Gloria. You are here and still this is happening?! Even princess Leishcen! No matter how good he fixes automatas or makes golems, I cannot accept entrusting arms to a magi craftsman!”

He said with a loud voice. Hanna blocked off her ears.

“Father...”

“What, Gloria? I am trying to hear the minister’s opinion on...”

Bolton was going to say something but Gloria interrupted him and just silently handed over her short sword.

“Hm? Didn’t you say you broke your sword the other day? Then is this a new one you got? Hmm... Wh-what?!”

Taking Gloria’s short sword in his hand, Bolton’s eyes sparkled.

“Ohhh, wonderful flow of steel! The blade is hard and the wick is tender. Such a tough sword! You got yourself quite a wonderful sword! I am sure it must be a very well-named blacksmith?”

“Yes, Jin-dono over there made it.”

“Hmm, Jin-dono, eh... That reminds me of the Honorary Magi craftsman of Egelia kingdom but... d-don’t tell me?!”

“It is exactly what you are thinking.”

And finally, Bolton got to know that Gloria’s short sword was created by the magi craftsman named Jin.



Bolton is a baron and the administrator of arms products in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication. He was a knight himself when he was young.

That Bolton was now apologizing with his head on the floor.

“I am extremely sorry! This Bolton has made the blunder of his life! Who knew there was a magi craftsman who could make such an excellent sword!”

“It’s fine, I don’t really mind.”

And Jin really didn’t mind. He was just dumbfounded by it all.

The princess and minister both looked like they were used to this.

Elsa thought he was just an extreme version of Reinhart but didn’t show it on her face and Hanna just thought he was an interesting, old man.



“And then, there is a boundary inside the metal and it starts breaking from that boundary. If the parts surrounded by that boundary is big, the metal becomes fragile.”

After having calmed down, they all shifted to the resting space at a corner of the workshop and were conversing.

“Same as me, Bolton also possesses the magic eye. A microscopic magic eye at that too.”

“Princess!”

Looks like the princess went and leaked something she shouldn't have again. She is even more honest than Jin.

“Microscopic, so that means you can see really small things as well, right?”

As Jin said that, Bolton was taken aback.

“Wh-what?! To be able to know what it is just by hearing the name! What exactly are you...”

“Like you said, I am the honorary magi craftsman of Egelia kingdom.”

Stating that, Jin insisted him to continue the interrupted talk.

“Hmm, I did hear that magi craft is prosperous in Egelia kingdom but to think it has come to this extent...”

And with that, Bolton started explaining.

From the contents of the discussion, Jin could tell he was talking about metal particles and fiber flow.

Metal is made from minute crystals and the finer these crystals are, the harder the metal will be.

He knew quite a bit about it as he trained in a metal-related company.

“These boundaries in the swords made with magic are very disordered and as such I

had deemed them to be of no use at all. However, the sword you have made..."

"We get it, we get it. That's enough. In short, what you mean to say is the sword Jin-dono made is very good for practical use, right?"

Seems like prime minister Powell got fed up with it and so brought out the conclusion. In reply to that, Bolton said,

"No, it is far higher than that. It won't be an exaggeration to call it an excellent sword."

After that uproar just now, he also tried using it and was assured that it was an excellent sword.

And ever since, he has been keeping a low profile.

Jin was feeling thankful, Elsa was looking at such a Jin's face, Hanna smiling with a grin and Reiko was feeling proud.

"I see."

The minister closed his eyes, folded his arms and looked like he was thinking something. After about 2 minutes, he finally opened his eyes and said,

"Jin-dono, I am grateful. To be honest, I was doubting you. That you might be a 'Unifier' or a spy of the Francis kingdom."

And he lowered his head.

"Wha... Powell... That is..."

The princess tried to say something but the minister stopped her by raising his hand.

"Your eyes were certainly correct, princess. After all, there is no way a spy from the enemy would make us such fine golems and arms."

If you were wondering why he knew about the golems—it is because he was sneakily watching Jin's golems go against Heintz in the mock battle.

And then the minister said that he wanted to report to the king as soon as possible and so to come along with him.

So he asked the accompanying soldier to request an audience with the king.

“Then, let’s slowly head towards there.”

They all left the workshop.

Princess Leischen, prime minister Powell, arms administrator Bolton, vice squad leader of the knights’ cavalry Gloria, Jin, Elsa, Hanna and Reiko went into the royal villa together.

The attendants and guards were curious seeing such a group go together and were silently glancing towards them.

“I want your sisters to please wait over here.”

Hanna and Elsa were guided into a reception room beside the office. Jin glanced towards Reiko and she understood the meaning so after nodding once, she confirmed with her infrared vision and raised 4 fingers.

This meant that the 2 exclusive SP for Hanna and Elsa were nearby.

Which made Jin relieved. He went into the King’s office with the minister. Of course, Reiko was with him as well.

The princess was also with Jin, Gloria went with Hanna and Elsa and Bolton left.

“So you came, Jin.”

As he was probably notified beforehand, it seemed like the king, Alois the Third, had been waiting for Jin.

“I have heard. It seems you have completed all the golems and weapons in just a day. Thank you for your work. I am grateful.”

Saying that, Alois the Third joined his hands on top of the desk and said,

“Now then, apart from the promised amount of money, I want to add a reward on top of it. Do you wish for anything?”

All the while looking straight at Jin. It is only natural, as Jin had made such fine golems and arms in such a short period of time.

Jin had his own thoughts about it but,

“To be honest, I do not know how big of a deed I have done.”

He answered. The question is, what the king will say after hearing this.

“Hmm, so that’s how it is. As for me, I wanted to employ you as the royal magi craftsman but I can’t even do that, after all.”

The title of honorary magi craftsman of the Egelia kingdom was quite useful to Jin.

“I will give you territory so if you were to settle in our country, that would make me really glad.”

As the king finished saying that, the minister also suggested his proposal.

“Apart from that, we could even give you a specific land and give you the right of control or perhaps even autonomy in it.”

Hearing that, Jin just said,

“That sounds nice.”

Seeing Jin’s reaction, the minister jumped straight at it,

“I-I see! So Jin-dono wants territory.”

As for the Kurain kingdom, rather than just giving gold, they really want to provide him with land so that they can keep him there.

“No, rather than calling it territory, I think it would be better to call it leasehold land.”

Jin replied.

A leasehold land is an ownership of a temporary right to hold land or property in which a lessee or a tenant holds rights of real property by some form of title from a lessor or landlord. Although a tenant does hold rights to real property, a leasehold estate is typically considered personal property. And so the one who is given the land holds more authority over it.

In this case, the Kurain kingdom will be lending a plot of land to Jin personally.

It's power to keep him there was less compared to a territory but it was a good enough condition for the Kurain kingdom.

“Hmm, any place you wish for then?”

Alois the Third asked Jin, with a face that said he just realized what was going on. Jin's answer to that was already decided.

“Yes, then I would like the Kaina village.”

Chapter 26

Leasehold land, village Kaina

“Hmm, Kaina village, eh”

The Kurain kingdom king, Alois the Third, said while smiling happily.

“Are you okay with just that? You could ask for much large land, you know?”

“No, I would like it to be Kaina village.”

Jin’s decision would not change.

“Hmm, that is fine as well.”

Alois the Third ordered the secretary to prepare the contract papers.

‘I will lend Kaina village to the magi craftsman Jin Nidou as leasehold land.’

That was the outline of it.

After which, the details were discussed — for example, the definition of Kaina village, its range, the duration of the lent, etc.

The lending period was decided to be 50 years from present time.

Each of the golems Jin made for the country would have about 5,000,000-8,000,000 Toll market price. For 20 of them, it would cost from about 100 million to 160 million toll. The cost of materials was about 80,000,000 toll.

Judging from the quality of the golems he made, the estimated cost of his work wouldn’t be less than 80 million normally but this time it was taken as 50 million. A difference of more than 30 million toll.

On the other hand, the revenue from Kaina village in terms of wheat was about 5 tons which is about 450,000 toll, in 50 years that would reach 22.5 million.

Even after taking the reward into account, it doesn’t balance out no matter how you look at it and thus, Alois the Third said that it would not be a problem even if he asked

for a bigger area.

And the condition text was read aloud.

It also had a condition which stated that if Jin conducted a deed which would contradict the kingdom's profits, the contract would become invalid.

And naturally, the village itself and the territory would be extraterritorial.

As Jin himself couldn't keep up with all the conditions the secretary read out loud, he made Laojun memorize them through Reiko and check them simultaneously.

And after having considered all of such conditions, the one which would likely cause problems was as expected, 'a deed which would contradict the kingdom's profits'— Reiko whispered to Jin's ears.

"What do you think, Jin-dono?"

After all the text was read aloud, prime minister Powell came asking Jin.

There, Jin spoke of the point Laojun identified through Reiko.

"Right, the point 'a deed which would contradict the kingdom's profits', this feels a tad bit vague. For example — and this is only as an example — but, say that someone belonging to the Kurain kingdom cause problems around the Kaina village, if I were to rebuke them for it, in that case, how much is permitted?"

The king had noticed that he was implicitly pointing out to the incident last year when Jin stopped Earl Walter's overbearing attitude.

"Hmm, that is right. What do you think, prime minister?"

"Yes, then if that's the case, how about acknowledging the self defense of the area, if an incident which would cause harm to it were to occur inside the area?"

He was twisting his words but to put it simply, he was stating that in the case of an attack on to the Kaina village, a counter attack inside Kaina village won't be considered a deed which would contradict the kingdom's profits. It is obvious if it is an extraterritorial area.

Inversely, it also means that they can't do anything if such party were outside of the Kaina village.

"In this case, is it okay to think of the village as not a village, but as an area with a certain border?"

“To be specific, it is the area north of Togo mountain pass which is surrounded by the mountains northward of the Herme river.”

The mountains northward aren’t the places they go to collect medicinal plants, but rather the ones farther north, all the mountains in ‘Hecathon Kayle’. Those are quite big.

It was Jin’s comment which added a simple drawing to show the area and made it less ambiguous.

He went on to confirm a few more points.

The last of which was that ‘In the case of a person belonging to the Kaina village causing harm outside Kaina village, the village will be given authority to decide the punishment’.

And after confirming all the vague points, even Laojun gave his OK so Jin signed the papers and gave his fingerprint.

Two contract papers were made, one for Jin and other for Kurain kingdom.

“With this, our country has formed a connection with you.”

Said Alois the Third.

“Your Majesty, there is something I would like to confirm.”

“Hmm, what is it?”

“It seems that the war with Francis kingdom has ended but what has happened to the recruitment order?”

“Minister?”

The king sent the question towards the minister.

“Certainly, we had sent out an order for recruitment to the nobles who possess land. However, we have taken it back this morning so they should be breaking up soon.”

Hearing the minister’s explanation, Jin calmed himself down. Now the men of the Kaina village will be able to return.

“I am relieved. Finally, I ask you to please consider so that we don’t have any friction with Earl Walter who governs that area.”

“I understand.”

Thinking that this was the end of it and that Kaina village will be peaceful again, Jin became happy.

And the king went,

“Let’s celebrate having a connection.”

Saying that, he prepared two glasses, poured wine into them and handed the recommended one to Jin. Jin also took it obediently.

“Well then, to our good relationship.”

“To our good relationship.”

“Cheers.”

They were all happy. The princess, because her father also acknowledged Jin, and the minister, because he was able to form connection with a hard-to-get, talented person.

With this, the clock had crossed half past five by the time everything was settled and it seemed like they would have to stay for one more night. Taking this chance, princess Lieschen said,

“Jin, I am glad. Please have dinner at my place again. That is fine, right, father? Right, why don’t you join us as well, Powell?”

Alois the Third nodded with a smile.

“Hmm, Lies, you’re in charge of those so I will leave it to you. Powell, you may go as well.”



At the large dining hall of the imperial villa, a luxurious dinner was lined up. At the dining hall, princess Lieschen, prime minister Powell, baron Bolton and Gloria were taking part. Also Jin, Elsa, Hanna and Reiko (Although Reiko doesn't drink or eat) were there. Hanna was wearing the dress she got from the princess. Elsa too was wearing a dress, although not from the princess. Jin was wearing the honorary magi craftsman's half coat. Excluding Hanna, they toasted with a light fruit wine. Hanna was having a juice. That can't be helped.

“Ahh, that's a burden off my shoulder.”

The minister said after the toast. Seems like creating a connection with Jin made him feel at ease. He might still be thinking of something but now after knowing Jin's strengths, he probably won't directly make a move.

Jin explained the facts simply to Elsa and Hanna but Hanna probably didn't understand.

Even still, she probably understood that Jin received a reward and went,

“That's great, onii-chan!”

While having dinner, the conversation got livelier. The one who was talking the most was princess Lieschen.

Saying stuff like,

“My eyes were correct!”

or,

“You could stay here forever if you like, you know!”

Gloria was being Gloria and went,

“This sword Jin-dono made for me, I will treasure it my whole life!”

And her father, Bolton was like,

“Jin-dono, next time, of course, if you are okay with it but, I would really like it if you make me one sword as well...”

Silently whispered in Jin’s ears. (Which he put on hold for the time being)
And like this, while having fun conversation with each other, the night wore on.



On the other hand, Alois the Third at that moment-

“The minister answered that to Jin’s question but when was the recruitment order retracted?”

Just in case, he confirmed it with the secretary. He wanted to value the trust.

“Yes, it is alright. Without a doubt, the retraction was done this morning, by a fast horse.”

“I see. Then it’s fine. Seriously, just for a small blunder, we handed over such outstanding talent to another country last time.”

He said while unpleasantly recalling Earl Walter’s rashness.

“Also, I made a good acquaintance in order to make Lies a bride in the Egelia kingdom.”

Thinking in terms of the policy of cultivating distant countries while working to conquer nearby ones which the Kurain kingdom follows, they really wish to strengthen their relationship with the Egelia kingdom.

As far as he heard from Jin, the third prince Earnest is quite a good prince and so he was happy as a father.

“What is Earl Walter doing at the moment?”

Although it was just one portion, he will be taking the land from the Earl so he wants to properly explain the situation.

The secretary replied,

“Yes, he is probably forming his own army at Gaara. The soldiers for the recruitment

have most definitely broken up.”

“Alright, send a fast horse first thing in the morning, let’s also tell him about the decision regarding Kaina village.



“Laojun, how is the ‘linkage’ coming along?”

[Yes, it is going excellently.]

That night, on top of his bed, after confirming that there were no wiretaps, to double check, he was conversing with Laojun through Reiko.

[If the sensitivity is increased a bit, I could see and hear the things Nick 1 to 20 see and hear.]

Yes, Jin didn’t completely trust the Kurain kingdom. And for that purpose, he had quite a lot of ‘insurance’ he put in the golems.

And so he used the light element magi crystal which were a bit overspec for the eyes. All the spare power was used for the linkage with Laojun. And for that purpose, he minutely did the magi formula and also added kanji to the composition so there was nothing which could be analyzed from it.

Even the wind element voice device had spare power which was used for the linkage with Laojun. And if he wanted, he could hear everything the golem hears and says.

He also added limiters so that it couldn’t attack Jin, Hourai island and Kunlun island. If push comes to shove, Laojun could even take control of the golems.

This was a secret between only Jin, Reiko and Laojun.

“I have one more request. Laojun, deliver a golem carriage similar to the one I built before near Alban tomorrow morning.

Jin thought that they would probably be escorted tomorrow before the farewell and so instructed Laojun to handle the deceptions.

“This should do the trick...”

Chapter 27

Nostalgia party is doing activities (side chapter)

“Elena, what is this?”

Former head of the Unifiers and the current head of the Nostalgia party, Joule, questioned upon seeing the magic tool which was as big as a large table. It was April 27th. The day after Unifier had changed name to Nostalgia.

“This is called the ‘Mana phone’”

“Mana phone?”

Hearing that unfamiliar name, Joule was puzzled.

“Yes. You’d need another person with the same device but if they do have it, you can use this to converse with them.”

Elena started explaining.

“Oho? But didn’t we have long-distance talks before as well?”

It was a justified question. Before, he did talk with Elena over a distance using a certain magic item while she and the second seat, Donald, were returning.

“Yes, your doubt is justified. I do not know the name of that magic item but when the distance between the parties increase, it fails to connect. For example, its max range would be from here to Astan. Moreover, you can’t talk with anyone other than me with it. On top of all that, if there are mountains in-between this distance, it would be impossible to maintain communication. In contrast to that, despite being so small, this mana phone can connect to a distance of hundreds of kilometers if not over a thousand. And that doesn’t change even if there are mountains in-between.”

“Wow! This is from Makina-dono?”

“Yes. In total we received 10 pairs, therefore 20 mana phones and as such, I think we could station one in each country.”

Egelia kingdom, Serroa kingdom, Francis kingdom, Kurain kingdom and Elias kingdom — in total, these 5 countries even though they are small in size, they have deep connections.

If you were to connect all of these countries’ capitals, you would need 4 devices in each country so therefore 4 into 5 equals 20. 20 devices would be needed.

Shouro empire and Leonard kingdom would be left for next time.

“With this, surely they will happy.”

Joule said, letting out a sigh of relief. And asked Elena again,

“How is the reorganization of the party going?”

According to Elena, even after the mind control was undone, over 80% of the executive members sympathized with the Nostalgia party’s ideals and remained.

Seems like the remaining 20% were after authority or power so they were thrown into the underground prison.

It is still undecided whether they would use mind control to neutralize and release them or let them rot in the prison. It would be best if they were to just reform.

“I see, if that’s so then we could operate as an organization.”

“Yes, my lord.”

Even though Elena too was remodeled by Jin, as there would be people looking, she kept her style of talking.

“Hm, I don’t think I would be able to go through with this if you weren’t here, Elena. I will be counting on you from here on out as well.”



On the other hand, the second seat, Donald, was struggling hard.

The reason for which was the early morning battle on the 23rd day.

No matter how vast and deserted the plain land in front of the headquarters is, there is no way that no one from Kassimnore city would have noticed.

Makina (=Jin) was confirming from above. Although there were no casualties among the people dwelling nearby, there was a possibility of someone seeing the debris which blew out when Makina and the others were trying to escape.

“I wonder if we can somehow deceive them by saying development of new mine...”

To rationalize them all and conceal them peacefully, Donald was racking his brain. There was also the remedial measures left for the ‘meddling’ they did within all the countries.

“...Sending thugs to ‘cause chaos in the capital city of Kurain kingdom, Alban, eh... There might be more of these...”

Donald was lamenting after coming known what one executive of an extremist party did of his own accord. Today is the 28th day, morning. It will be afternoon soon.

“One is already done, eh. And it doesn’t seem like I will be able to make the other one in time even if I try now... I can only hope Kurain kingdom properly deals with this...”



“Your majesty, we have received a present from an organization called Nostalgia offering their condolences.”

“What? Nostalgia?”

“Yes. According to the attached letter, they are a group whose prime objective is to ‘excavate the technology of the past, make use of them in the present and connect them to the future’.”

“That sounds kinda fishy. So, what is the present?”

“Yes, this.”

“What is this big desk? Four of these too, you say?”

“Yes, according to the note attached, it is a magic item called the mana phone.”

“Mana phone?”

“Yes. In other words, it makes it possible to have long-distance conversations using magic. As we have been informed, 4 of these have been sent to each of the countries, Egelia kingdom, Francis kingdom, Elias kingdom, Serroa kingdom and Kurain kingdom. It will make it possible to have contact between these 5 countries easily”

“If that is true, it will turn out to be extremely helpful. Let’s try it out.”

“There might be some dangers so I think it would be better if we have the ministry of magic present as well.”

“Hmm, give them a call.”

April, 29th, early morning, similar conversations had occurred in each of the 5 countries.



“This is the Egelia kingdom’s ministry of magic, Kerihidor. Can you hear me?”

A bright light glowed from within the magi crystal in the mana phone and the voice spoke.

Prime minister Powell, who was nearby, hurriedly replied,

“Th-this is the prime minister of the Kurain kingdom, Powell. Y-your voice can be heard loud and clear.”

“Ohh, I see. Early this morning, this magic device called the mana phone had been delivered and therefore after some investigation, it appeared harmless so we tried calling you.”

Hearing that, the minister again replied hurriedly,

“Our party had also been investigating but thanks to your sudden call, we got to know it is harmless and effective and as such, I would like to offer my gratitude.”

And then, although unofficially, the ministry of magic of Egelia kingdom and the prime minister of Kurain kingdom continued talking for a while.

“Certainly, this is extremely convenient. I plan on speaking with the king and

proposing a conference with your king afterwards."

This was during the afternoon of April 29th.

A similar signal was exchanged between Elias kingdom and Egelia kingdom, Kurain kingdom and Francis kingdom.

Mana phone would surely come to influence the diplomatic relations between the countries in the future.

By the way, there is a mana cam built-in these mana phone and all of the contents spoken over it was leaked to Laojun. Although no one knew of this fact.



"Elena, about that mana phone, do you know how it was delivered to each of the countries?"

"Yes, my lord. That Makina-sama ordered the underlings and delivered it to the countries."

Hearing that reply, both Joule and Donald groaned, thinking that mysterious being, Makina, holds that much power.

And also from the sentence-'There is more power to this world other than magic which can be used'.

That sentence which Donald had heard from Reinhart, possessed weight and was stretched out in front of them.

"...Exactly what do you even do to make a golem do this..."

There lied the remnant of the revival materials which were sent to each of the countries. In other words, metal obtained from melting golems were piled up to make a mountain.

"I have no idea. There must be a ton of things which we, the ones who have only been looking at the past, can't understand."

"I wonder how much of that we can understand with our remaining lives."

There was a touch of loneliness in that sentence Joule said.

“Isn’t it fine even if we can’t understand all of it? That is life, after all.”

Donald answered. He didn’t break his positive attitude no matter what.

“Thank you, Elena. As long as you’re here, we can believe in the future.”

“Yes, please leave it to me. Also, Makina-sama has delivered yet another magic item a while ago.”

“I see. I wonder how it will surprise me this time.”

Chapter 28

Return

The following day, this time for sure, Jin decided to leave Kurain kingdom's capital, Alban.

He had been away from the Kaina village for quite a while too. Hanna was probably starting to feel homesick as well.

It was unfortunate how they couldn't drop by Raglan firm where the peddler Roland was. It will have to be during the next trip.

After breakfast, the princess once again saw them off till the main gate with her carriage.

The Imperial Guards were guarding all four sides of the carriage.

For further protection, Gloria was also riding with them but due to the fact that they would be saying farewell momentarily, no dialogues were exchanged inside the carriage.

Just the princess' few words,

“You know it's completely fine for you to stay...”

Going past the gate, the carriage stopped. The knights who were guarding were considerate enough to give them some space.

Inversely, the SP for Jin, Hanna and Elsa were guarding every nook and cranny of the carriages surrounding. Although they couldn't be seen.

Jin and the others descended from the carriage slowly like they were feeling sorrow for parting.

By the way, Hanna was wearing her own clothes this time. However, as one would expect, surely nothing worth worrying about would happen today.

The princess and Gloria were facing opposite the town wall and Jin, Elsa and Hanna were facing towards it.

No one said anything. They all had various things to say but when the moment arrives, it becomes quite hard to say it.

Among them, Gloria was the first one to get the ball rolling.

“Jin-dono, I hope to meet you again someday.”

Following her, princess Lieschen said,

“Jin, what will you do from now on?”

The usual energetic princess had a sad expression.

“Yes, I will go Kaina village once.”

Jin answered. Jin was also feeling a bit sad.

“Ah, yes, you did mention you had a carriage ready.”

“Yes.”

After nodding, Jin whistled. Following the whistle, a carriage came on from the road which lead to the forest.

“Oh, oh? Wh-what is that carriage?!”

Seeing the golem carriage for the first time, the princess was surprised. Gloria also had an identical reaction.

“It’s my carriage. It’s a carriage golem horses pull.”

The carriage came and stopped exactly beside Jin’s side. With one look, Jin understood that it was the same one he had built at the Egelia kingdom. Seems like Laojun did his work properly.

“Prince Earnest of Egelia kingdom also has one of these.” he said. Because, if he lets her know that, her interest towards Egelia kingdom would increase. And just as he had thought, the princess replied,

“Ohh, I see! That makes me look forward to meeting Earnest-sama!”

And then,

“You know, actually, a device called the mana phone was delivered yesterday. And

thanks to that, it seems like we can talk to Egelia kingdom, Serroa kingdom and Francis kingdom. Ah, also Elias kingdom."

He heard of it last night while talking to Laojun. Thinking that they would probably be able to use it properly, he chuckled a little.

"And thanks to that, Father has also talked about various things, it seems. And according to that, next month, or rather it's May tomorrow so, well, but it seems that, Earnest-sama and my m-marriage meeting will be held or something."

As always, the princess just ended up blurting out some of the country's important information without hesitation. Although she was a bit embarrassed, that little bit of carelessness doesn't change.

"O-oh, congratulations."

Jin couldn't help but say that.

"Hmm, it isn't decided yet or anything, though."

The princess said blushing. Seeing which Jin thought Earnest and her might just be well-matched.

"Well then, we shall depart."

"Thank you for having us."

"Princess! Thank you very much!"

"Hmm, be well. Let's meet again."

"Jin-dono, let's meet again someday."

Although short, they said their farewells from heart and Jin and the others got on the carriage.

And then the carriage door closed and it started moving slowly.

"Take care!"

Even though she is the princess, princess Lieschen bid them farewell with a loud voice. Jin thought, that even though a lot happened, he met some pretty good people, and sank down on his seat.



“There they go.”

Said the princess.

Seeing Gloria walking back, she told Gloria to ride in her carriage.

“You can protect me while in the carriage like when we came, can’t you?”

Gloria was feeling obliged but at the end, lost to the pushy princess, decided to ride back together.

As the carriage started moving, the 4 guards naturally came closer. They were to guard till the royal palace.

“He was a mysterious guy, huh?”

Inside the carriage, the princess and Gloria were talking about Jin and the others.

“Yes, he is the Honorary Magi craftsman of Egelia kingdom but had a many riddles to him, didn’t he?”

“Hmm. But, I felt that he was not a man who would bring harm to our country.”

“I feel the same as well.”

The carriage went on the stone paving. Looking outside the carriage, the princess was recalling the golem incident the other day.

It was because the builds and the road before her was being repaired.

The hole which Jin created to drop the golems and the wall which cracked from Jessica’s ‘flame lance’.

“We did compensate them but didn’t yet decide on Jessica’s punishment, huh...? I guess she’ll have to go without 3 months worth of salary.”

In this case, it was a custom that the salary cut would be reduced to half. Gloria could almost imagine Jessica's face on the verge of tears.

"She would be perfect if not for that."

"Hmm. She has great leadership, judgement and sword skill. On top of that, she is also popular. If only she could control her magic."

Because of the fact that it won't be much of a problem in the battlefield, she is still the captain.

"Talented people are important, after all."

The princess muttered earnestly.



The carriage with Jin and the others on rode fast through the highway.

"Ah, yes, Jin-nii's carriage is really different."

Elsa said with a satisfied face.

"It feels really nice to ride."

Hanna expressed how the quality of the ride was so good on Jin's golem carriage. After riding for quite a while, Jin contacted Laojun through Reiko.

"Father, Condor 3 who developed stealth is on standby in the sky."

"Hm... Wait, 3?"

Condor was only supposed to be upto 2. When did it increase to 3?

"It seems like there is a large scale warp gate in Condor 3. If we use that, we can return to Kunlun mountains with the whole carriage."

They didn't connect directly to Hourai island in case of the worst-case scenario.

“I see. As expected of Laojun, he is fast with the preparations.”

Jin was content with his subordinate's work.

He thought of blindfolding Hanna but then decided to stop.

He wanted to bring Hanna like this here from now on as well and he also wanted her to know his true identity.

“Hanna, we will be going to the Kunlun island with the whole carriage now, alright?”

“Eh? O-okay.”

She was confused for a moment there but soon nodded. The things Jin says he can do, he really does do, after all.

The carriage steered off the highway and went on down a somewhat bad road. However, due to the active suspension from the golem's arm, they felt next to no vibration.

After going through that road for about 10 minutes, they got out onto a gaping wide grassland.

“That is Condor 3.”

As Reiko said that, Condor 3 appeared, deactivating its stealth.

“Waah! So big! What, is that?”

“...Did you, make this too, Jin-nii?”

Hanna was honestly astonished and Elsa immediately thought of the Pelican 1 she rode before but after looking properly, she saw it almost looked completely different. But even then, the aura coming from its body or maybe the state of magic tools inside it made Elsa feel that it fell into the same category as Pelican 1.

That also showed how much Elsa grew as a magi craftsman.

The carriage slowly went into the large warp gate Condor 3 created.

The ones riding the carriage felt complete darkness only for a moment. The carriage had teleported through a few hundred kilometers and arrived at the Kunlun island.

Chapter 29

Owner Jin

The location where the carriage landed was not the Kunlun island mansion but rather inside the garage with the warp gate setup.

“When did they even make all these...?”

Jin muttered. The last time Jin had come to the Kunlun island was on 26th. It was 30th now. Seems like Laojun had established quite a lot of things in that short period of time.

Jin thought that he would praise him for it later and got off the carriage with Hanna and Elsa.

“Waah! This, is onii-chan’s home! Wow, wow! What is going on here?”

Hanna had noticed the difference from before in a moment.

“Hanna-chan, Jin-nii is amazing. So he can do these stuff as well.”

“Yep! Onii-chan is amazing!”

While Jin was thinking how he would explain it to Hanna, Elsa went ahead and convinced Hanna.

“Alright, let’s go back to Kaina village.”

“Yes!”

This time, they went underground the mansion to the warp gate which leads to Hourai island. The number of Butlers defending and maintaining the warp gate in Hourai island had increased to 10.

Then they went from Hourai island to Kaina village. It was troublesome but safer that way.

They came out under Jin’s workshop there.

Hanna went up the stairs vigorously and stood before her house.

“Yay, we are back!!”

They were indeed welcomed by the princess in Alban but judging from Hanna's high spirits now when she is back, it seems her home is the best to her. She then went on bursting into the house.

“Obaa-chan, I am back!”

Hearing her voice, Martha came out to greet them.

“Hanna, welcome back. Did you have fun?”

Yes! You know, I got to meet the princess! She also gave me clothes!”

As one would expect, Martha's face became a bit stiff hearing the word ‘princess’.

“Elsa, welcome back.”

“I am back, mother.”

Mine also came out to greet them.

“Unthinkable things always happen around Jin-nii but I had fun.”

She reported.

Jin slowly came up the stairs the last.

“Welcome back, Jin-sama.”

“Welcome back, Jin.”

“I am back.”

Being told ‘welcome back’ is a merry thing. It makes you heartily feel that you have a place where you belong.

However, there was something Jin had to do first.

“There is something I need to talk about with Martha and the chief first.”

“What is it? Did something happen?”

Jin said he would tell them at the chief’s house and they all headed there.

“What happened, Jin?”

The village chief, Gibeck, was at home and invited Jin and the others in.

“There is something I wanted to report.”

And Jin started talking about how they went to Kurain kingdom’s capital, Alban. About Lishia’s sword and Gloria’s request, about how they met with the princess, how he fixed the automatas and took on a request from the king himself. And as its reward, he got Kaina village as a leasehold land. At the end, he also showed them the contract papers.

“I-I see...”

Even Gibeck was surprised and had a stiff expression. Martha and Mine were also surprised.

“T-that means, this next 50 years, Jin will essentially be the governor of this village...”

But Jin denied.

“No, I do not plan on becoming a governor. In the first place, it was something I thought of after hearing that they were recruiting people as soldiers from here.”

“...You have sharp ears. Certainly, the day before yesterday, the recruitment order was issued and Rock, Jeff, Deibu, Howard and Rick were taken from the village.”

As Jin had thought.

“But with this, it will be fine. The recruitment order was retreated so there will be nothing to worry about from here on out.”

“Hmm, if so, that is great.”

Then the chief went back to the main topic,

“T-then, what do you plan on doing now, Jin?”

To the topic of what Jin planned on doing with the village from now on.

“Nothing really, I think it is fine as it is now... Ah, although there is no need to pay taxes now.”

“Hmmmm, but, we can’t do that either. Either it’s a territory or leasehold land, I have never heard of a governor who doesn’t take taxes.”

But even then, Jin shook his head and said,

“Like I said, I am not a governor or anything. If I were to say, yes, I would say I was a temporary owner or something along those lines.”

The chief sighed.

“The meaning do not change if you just change the name, ya know? But, yes, I do somewhat get what you want to say. Then, you are the owner of this village, Jin. I will be the village’s chief. Is that fine?”

Jin was happy as the chief understood.

“Yes, that is fine.”

“However, you should collect tax. And then, do something for the village with that tax.”

Being told that, Jin finally understood.

With the tax he gets, he will do something for the village. That is how Jin thought things to be.

“I understand. Then let’s keep the tax like it has been.”

“Hmm.”

“It would be so weird, receiving tax. After all, I am living in Martha-san’s house so it would be weird taking tax from her and then also having her make food.”

Hearing that, Martha laughed.

“What, you were thinking about something like that? Really, that is very like you!”

Hearing her laugh, Jin was finally able to relax.

“You know, I don’t mind whatever you become, Jin. Even if you were to become a noble or something either! You don’t either, do you, Hanna?”

“Yep! Onii-chan is onii-chan!”

Jin felt his eyes getting warmer.

Martha and Hanna wouldn’t change.

“Got it... Then, chief, I request you to keep managing the village like before.”

“Understood. From now on, I will be the chief on behalf of you.”

Gibeck said with a smile.

“But still, to think that Jin would get so much success in life, huh? The world is a weird place. No, I guess because it *is* Jin.”

“I was also pretty surprised hearing that.”

They were now having lunch at Martha’s house. Hanna was loving her home’s taste after so long.

Kaina village’s food was not lacking even compared to the royal castle. As they say, one’s home’s food is always worth returning for.

“Well, now that giving taxes is easier, it means that if we work hard, we will be rewarded more so it is worth more working now.

Martha said with a smile.

Jin thought to himself that now he could really start setting up a defense system for

Kaina village and started elaborately planning in his head.



“...And that is how it is.”

At the royal castle, Earl Walter who was summoned by the king was being told about the situation directly by the king, Alois the Third.

“Wh-why, Your Majesty?! What kind of failure did I make?! Even though it is small, to cut off my territory!”

Earl Walter got flared up at the king.

“What kind of failure, you say?”

Alois the Third's eyes glared.

“With what face are you saying that? Because of your hasty conclusions and rashness, we gave away such a talented magi craftsman to another country, you know?!”

“Th-that... is...”

“Do you understand? For 50 years from now, Kaina village is Jin Nidou's leasehold land. And also, send back the people you recruited from there as soon as possible.

“Y-yes...”

Earl Walter did fall back there but nobody noticed that dangerous glare residing in his eyes.

Chapter 30

Progress

After lunch, Hannah went to play since she hadn't been to Kaina village in a while. Elsa was telling Mine about their journey.

Jin had started planning to protect Kaina village, just in case something were to happen. And to implement those plans, he went back to Hourai island.

“Welcome back, master.”

Butler 1 welcomed him.

And then Jin went to the workshop.

“Welcome back, master.”

Ann also came. Jin thought he would tell her later about how he met a similar-shaped automata, Tia.

Jin sat down on his usual chair and started discussing with Laojun through the equipped mana cam.

He explained that now that Kaina village was his leasehold land, he was thinking of increasing its security.

“I would like to install magic eyes in several places and increase bodyguard golems.”

Laojun also agreed with Jin.

[Right. I agree with equipping magic eyes for monitoring along the highway, the Elme river, the northern mountains, the eastern and western forests, etc.]

“Master, I think it would be good to also prepare barriers.”

“Alright, let's install barrier-generating devices below the Elme river bridge and the village's fences.”

They made it so that only Jin, Laojun and Reiko could control it. Jin held the most

priority, after him was Laojun, and after Laojun was Reiko.

“We will have 26 golems. Same type as army golems, naming them from Land A to Land Z. Let’s make the golems grey so they don’t stand out. Stealth should be installed in all of them.”

The army for Hourai island is named after numbers so this is to differentiate between them.

[Understood, I will get on starting production immediately.]

As they would be of the same type as army golems, even Laojun is capable of making them.

“Master, I think it would also be better to equip them with arms.”

Another suggestion from Ann. That is true.

“Alright, paralyzers against humans. Vibration swords against close range golems. And how about induction radiator against long range types?”

“Hmm, right, but since the opposing party might also not be golems so I think it would be better to go with laser guns.”

“I see. Then let’s go with both of those.”

Exactly what were they planning to fight against?! — There was no one in Hourai island who would retort like that.

“Lastly, it would be good to have a proxy for when I am not present.”

[That is true. I shall station a Butler there permanently.]

And so, one Butler was stationed at Jin’s house in Kaina village.

“That is fine and all but how many Butlers do you plan on making?”

When Jin asked, Laojun replied ‘50’.

“Alright. Then make that 51 and make the one which will be stationed at my place numberless.”

[Understood. It might prove to be difficult without any numbers so I shall name it ‘A’.]

And therefore, a Butler which had just been finished was stationed at Jin’s house and would act as his proxy in his absence.

“Well then, after that...”

Jin brought up the topic of how Hannah was held captive for a while in Kurain kingdom and,

“To prevent these kind of incidents from happening again, I think we need to change the SP’s setting a little.”

[That’s true. A stitch in time saves nine. I think we need to adjust for situations when there are suspicious beings nearby.]

“How about having it be prepared to subdue anyone who is not known by Hannah-chan, onee-sama and master?”

That was Ann’s suggestion.

“No, worst case scenario, it might subdue someone who just happens to come close to ask directions or such.”

“That is true...”

They weren’t able to come up with a good option.

[I think we have no other choice but to have you, my lord, develop a new defensive magic tool.”

“Eh?”

[How about a barrier which forms along the surface of the body.]

Laojun suggested. Of course, that can be used all the time.

“Hmmm, it will prove to be quite difficult but I will think about it. It seems quite impossible at the moment.”

[Yes, I also do not think a situation where it might be needed will arise anytime soon.]

At the end, they decided on using paralyzer as default. Even if they used lighting magic, it would be difficult to make it strong enough to make the other party faint. The chances of it affecting the people around was also high.

In contrast, paralyzer is able to only paralyze the target.

“Alright, that should be good enough for the SP. Also...”

Jin took out two magic crystals from his pocket for the other task he had in mind. One was Tia’s old control core and the other had Heintz Lash’s sword techniques in it.

“Do an analysis on these for me. It will probably turn out to be quite important data.”

[Understood.]

Jin passed the two cores to Laojun.

“All that’s left is... Hey, maybe you guys aren’t showing it to me because I haven’t asked but... that diary-like book we found at the ruins? You are done deciphering that, aren’t you?”

Jin asked with a sullen face. Laojun wondered how he should respond, looking forward to how Jin reacts.

[Yes, that is...]

Laojun inarticulately responded, which was unusual of him.

“What is it? Is there a problem?”

[Yes, I guess you could call it a problem.]

“Like I said, what is it?”

[Yes, then I will tell you. That diary was a diary.]

“Huh?”

Jin doubted his ears. He was worried if Laojun had gone mad.

[No, like, we had thought, it had important facts about the big magic war but it really was just a personal diary.]

“Ah, I kind of understand.”

Jin was able to comprehend.

[It barely has about 2 to 3 parts worth referring to. Except that, it is completely useless. After all, it is no fun reading some stranger’s daily life activities.]

“Well, I guess.”

Losing interest, Jin asked Laojun about those 2 to 3 parts.

[There were something written about alchemy, demons and other historic ruins.]

“Oh? Sounds interesting.”

Jin was drawn in the most by the word ‘demon’. Jin knew next to nothing about the demon race.

[But even still, it is very little... Monsters are beings who live off of ether. And among them, demons are the ones which have intelligence.]

“Hmmm.”

Laojun continued with his explanation.

According to him, it seems like demons have built up a civilisation which could even rival the humans. However, they do not consider flocking like humans a good thing and therefore do not use any ‘war tactics’ or ‘strategies’.

Due to that, the human side was able to barely win.

“But if that is the case, doesn’t abandoning the fort and retreating seem weird?”

If they were winning, there shouldn't have been any reason to retreat.

[Yes, I couldn't understand that much from the diary.]

“Hmm, then I leave the report to you. What’s written about alchemy in there?”

Jin knew that alchemy here resembled science in the modern world. But that was all he knew.

Alchemy was developed about 500 years ago, after his predecessor had passed. Hence, the golems (Reiko’s ancestor automatas) which stayed in the solitary island had no way of knowing about it.

[Yes, this was also not something that interesting. It seems they had tried using strong acid as a weapon. At the end, it didn’t become a reality as they couldn’t create a large amount of strong acid.]

Strong acids are acids which have a high level of ionization. Sulfuric acid, nitric acid and hydrochloric acid. If they were trying to use this as a weapon, they probably contained it in an airtight containers and launched it onto the enemy demons.

“Chemical weapons, eh...”

It was something he didn’t really want spreading.

“What did the part about historic ruins say?”

[Yes, for convenience, I did say historic ruin but it seems that at the time it was an abandoned fortress. It is the fortress near the Yada village’s historic ruin. However, we, the Quinta, have already finished investigating it.]

“Got it. I leave the control cores with you. Continue analysing it.”

[Understood. Also, this is something Topaz and I investigated but, shall I report about it?]

“Hm? What is it? I am listening.”

Thinking that this was one day full of unusual remarks from Laojun, Jin urged him to

continue.

[Alright, then... We have identified why the plants, more specifically the fruit trees in Hourai island, grow so well. It seems that Hourai island is a singularity point for mana.]

“Singularity point?”

[Yes. Normally, ether gathers together at the North Pole. Although it is less than 1/10th of the North Pole, it seems there is a pulse here where ether gathers.]

“I see. And?”

[The ether in the fruits decrease in the order: pelshika, apple, citran. Pelshika, being the highest, has more than 10 times the ether compared to the ones grown in other regions.]

“That is quite amazing. It’s like a ‘senmomo’(special peach).”

A while earlier, Laojun had speculated that Jin would react like that when he gets to know about it.

[And we also discovered that we are able to store it without any drop in quality using the ether stocker.]

“Ooh, that is nice. So, the refrigerators are already reconstructed, right?”

This time, Jin saw through Laojun’s works.

[Yes, as per your command.]

Jin felt happy seeing his own creation, the system called Laojun, executing properly.



At a location 1 kilometer north of the provincial city of Serroa kingdom, Astan. In that area, lay Shouro empire’s storage depot. The diplomat Reinhart was being forced to stay there.

Because a majority of the Serroa kingdom's head camp consists of Unifiers, as a result of replacing that head, they weren't properly functioning as an administration.

"Reinhart! Rejoice! We can finally depart!"

Elsa's elder brother, Fritz, said while he jogged closer.

"Eh, really?"

"Yes. The procedures are finally done. We will depart tomorrow morning! Forte, Bololon, Ganiiz, Toskoshia. And my motherland!"

Seeing Fritz in such high spirits, Reinhart felt happy too. They were about a week behind schedule.

"We can finally go back to our motherland!"

"Yes, I look forward to it."

That night, Reinhart was also able to talk to Jin after a long while and so lied down on the floor in content.

Chapter 31

Because I like him

April had ended, along with spring, and came May, with summer closing in. Today is the 2nd day of May.

“Yes, this is a letter. A, B, C. Let’s try reading them.”

“Eii, beee, shiii!”

Mine and Elsa were having a study session, teaching Hanna. Jin, who was absent-mindedly listening to them while laying down, once again thought about how similar these world’s letters are to Earth’s ones.

(Well, there might also have been some other human who was summoned long ago from Earth.)

He won’t come up with an answer even if he pondered and so he recalled the conversation he had with Reinhart last night.

[Seems like the Serroa kingdom’s governing body started operating properly at last, as we were finally able to renew our passing license. It has been a while since I rode a carriage.]

“Glad to hear that.”

[Yeah. Beth and Dolly probably want to meet their family as well, after all.]

“You too, right?”

[Haha, yeah. We have been away from our motherland for more than a year now, so we all feel homesick.]

“Where are you staying tomorrow, again?”

[After departing from Forte in the morning, we will probably go to Bololon. Everyone has been waiting to resume the journey, so it's pretty lively here.]

“A lot has happened over here too. I ended up receiving a village within Kurain kingdom’s borders as a leasehold land for the next 50 years.”

[Sounds fun.]

“Actually...”

And that was how their conversation went.

(Shouro empire, eh?... I do feel like going there.)

But seeing Hanna practicing letters with her utmost efforts, it was kind of hard for him to bring up the talk of going on a trip.

It seems Elsa felt something about that Jin.

After the study session had ended, Hanna and Elsa held hands and were on their way back. Along the way,

“Hanna-chan, what do you think about Jin-nii? You like him?”

“Yep, I like onii-chan!”

Elsa and Hanna were talking about Jin.

“Right? I like him too.”

“Yay!”

“Hanna-chan, what do you think about Jin-nii going out to travel?”

“Ehh, I don’t like it. I would feel lonely.”

The obvious response.

“Yep, it would get lonely, huh? But, what did you think about the three of us going out? Wasn’t it fun?”

“It was fun!”

Elsa nodded and patted Hanna’s head.

“Right? It was fun. And, so, Jin-nii has a place he wants to visit.”

“He does?”

Hanna stopped and looked up at Elsa’s face.

“Yes. Jin-nii has been looking forward to visiting this country called the Shouro empire.”

“...”

Elsa squatted and looked up to Hanna’s face.

“If we like Jin-nii, let’s let him do what he wants, alright?”

But only silence came back. After a whole 3 minutes of them staying like that, Hanna finally opened her mouth.

“...Yes”

Elsa hugged Hanna.

“Such a good girl. You did good.”

Saying that, she stroked Hanna’s back.

“But, it will be fine. If it’s Jin-nii, he will come back time to time.”

“Yup... he will.”

Hanna said with wet eyes.



Afternoon of the same day, Jin was checking up on the magic eyes which were set up within last night.

“Hmm, hmm. With this, even if humans were to come attacking, we would have ample amount of time to prepare.”

They were able to monitor a maximum of 10 kilometers and at least 2 kilometers away from the Kaina village area.

“I guess I will make a support intellect exclusively for monitoring.”

Something like a small-scale Laojun. In terms of efficiency, it will be about a hundredth of Laojun but should have enough processing power to rival 100 men.

Since he had experience making Laojun, it only took him about 30 minutes to complete.

“Activate.”

[Pleased to meet you, master.]

“Alright, your name will be Koushin.”

These namings also have a complicated backstory.

In a manga Jin had read long ago,

—Insects within the human body leave the host on the “Kanoesaru’s” night and tell the Lord of their hosts’ evil deeds. The Lord would then reduce their lifespan depending on those deeds and so the humans would not sleep on the Kanoesaru’s night.—

Jin remembered reading such folklores there. It was a faint memory but from that one point of monitoring, Jin named it Koushin (Kanoesaru).

[Understood. I am Koushin from now on. I will do my utmost in monitoring work.]

“I leave it to you.”

Jin returned to Kaina village after 3 PM.

When he went to the library on the 2nd floor, he found Hanna there, waiting for him.

“Onii-chan, welcome back.”

“Mm? Did something happen, Hanna?”

She cast her eyes downwards and was being hesitant but after a while, looked up to face Jin, and said with a clear tone.

“Onii-chan, it is fine if you want to go travelling somewhere, okay?”

“Eh?”

Jin was confused by this sudden event.

“When we went out before, it was really fun. Onii-chan, you also have some place you want to visit, right? Then it is completely fine if you go visit. I will be a good kid and wait here.”

“Hanna...”

Certainly, his desire to go to Shouro empire swelled up after having that conversation with Reinhart.

But was it really so obvious that even Hanna realized it? — Jin thought, but soon understood that it was probably Elsa. After all, the only ones who knew of this were her and Mine.

But he didn't say it out loud. Instead, he just stroked Hanna's head.

“Thank you. Then, I might head out sometime soon. But I will return from time to time, I promise.”

“Okay!”

Jin promised to return. Hanna was happy with just that.



That night, during Reinhart's regular call.

[We finally reached Bololon.]

“Glad to hear that. I also might head there sometime around tomorrow.”

[What? Jin, you okay?]

“Ah, only me, though. It's still impossible for Elsa, right?”

[Hmm. Fritz is back to normal but we don't know about his home, after all. Ah, right. We also found Adburgh and Herman.]

“Adburgh was the butler and Herman was the guard, right? What about the other one?”

[We are unsure about the manservant, Otto. As far as I have heard from Herman, after the dismissal, he went away on his own. So he won't probably be returning to Shouro empire.]

“I see. I guess we can't help it.”

[Elsa is doing fine, right?]

“Yea. This time, I will be coming alone.”

[Got it. We will probably reach Ganiz by tomorrow and Toskoshia the day after. Catch up to us by Toskoshia, alright?]

“Yea, leave it to me.”

[Haha, I thought you would say that. Alright then, I will be looking forward to our reunion.]

Chapter 32

Jin, departs

Going back in time a little.

After being told that he could travel if he wants, Jin went back to Hourai island in great joy and started preparations for his trip.

“Now then, let’s get the carriage ready first.”

The carriage he had built back in Egelia kingdom still remained, but after assigning the equipped warp gate for other uses, it would be a bit of a bother to put it back.

Laojun had been putting together a carriage of similar type for this occasion. Jin thought he would make a new model from scratch.

He made the outward appearance similar to the previous one.

Of course, he also equipped the warp gate.

With four-wheeled, self-support suspension system, ‘Active suspension’.

Fully furnished air-conditioning.

Floodlight projector.

And, of course, the horse would be a golem horse.

This was what would usually be equipped but from this point on, Jin did the unthinkable.

“I guess I will make it so that it can run even without a horse.”

In other words, he planned on equipping it with a golem engine so that it would be capable of running on its own.

“I can’t really pack in a big engine which stands out so I guess I will have to go with the least possible one I can.”

He isn’t aware that his ‘least’ isn’t what is considered to be the general ‘least’.

“Father, I have prepared the materials.”

Reiko brought aluminium 64. It is much stronger than normal aluminium.

“Alright, let’s start.”

Not having to worry about anyone watching, Jin exerted his engineering magic as much as he wanted and kept on processing the materials. Reiko was supporting him. Moreover, Laojun was considerate and called over two Smith golems.

And before one knew it, the carriage was completed.

They used the sea dragon’s leather for the tire. Due to its roughness being similar to the dragon’s scales, its grip power is extraordinary, even above boulders. (In fact, the boulder might break instead.)

“As I thought, we don’t get much speed if the golem engine is small.”

Jin grumbled as he saw the carriage go through the test run.

The engines are small as they have been equipped to each of the wheels. It looks like nothing but a fat tire but, in fact, golem engines are installed next to it.

And due to this, he couldn’t install anything too big as it would stand out too much. But it is also true that that would decrease the torque. It would be able to reach a speed of about 40 kilometers per hour.

If the golem horse pulled with all its strength, it would go up to a 100 kmph. A normal carriage’s max speed is about 15 kmph.

Even Jin himself didn’t know that his measure of things was quite outrageous.

This golem horse was reusing some of the material used before.

Even still, the aluminium portion is replaced with aluminium 64 and the magical muscle was enhanced, making the output power twice that of the one before.

“It would be nice to be able to ride it alone as well.”

He equipped the horse with a saddle, a stirrup and a handle so that it could be rode without the carriage as well.

“I guess I should also equip it with a seat so that it feels comfortable riding. Well, when needed, I could always use the warp gate and come back here to sleep anyway.”

There was no one present there who would retort saying ‘you wouldn’t call that a trip now, would you!?’.

Either way, super carriage no. 2 was done in about 2 hours.

[My lord, I have a suggestion.]

“Mm, what is it?”

[I suggest taking a golem with you, one which has the outer appearance of a low-class golem.]

Hearing Laojun's suggestion, Jin immediately understood the intention behind it.

“I see. Low-class ‘outer appearance’, eh?”

Put simply, a golem which would take care of his daily needs.

“I guess I could also make it be the driver normally.”

And so, Jin started making it immediately. All in all, Jin really liked making automatas and golems.

“The basis is fine being the same as butlers.”

He used 18-12 stainless steel as the raw material. It looked like iron at a glance so it would be easier to fool others' eyes with this.

He purposely tried making the outer appearance look clumsy. The model was Unifiers' battle golem. Even still, he didn't make it clumsy to that point. He also didn't want others to misunderstand, after all.

Its power was a bit higher than the butlers and its dexterity was close to that of the Smiths. And so, it should be able to handle miscellaneous tasks as well.

“Hmm, I'd better order it to pretend to be sluggish normally.”

And so, the attendant golem was done.

“Your name will be... ‘Steward’”

“Yes, master.”

With this, approximately all preparations were complete.

“...I guess I will rest for a bit. Reiko, Laojun, I leave the rest to you.”

“Yes, father.”

[Leave it to us.]

As one would expect, Jin was pretty tired and so left the remaining preparation to Reiko and Laojun and lied down on the floor.



“Alright then, I will be back.”

Jin went to inform the people of Kaina village about his trip.

“Jin-nii, take care. Give my regards to Rai-nii.”

“Jin-sama, please take care.”

“Jin, take care. Come back from time to time, alright?”

“Onii-chan, have a good trip...”

After being escorted by Elsa, Mine, Martha and Hanna, Jin headed towards the shelter. The workshop’s wargate would have been fine as well but since it would feel kinda weird, he went all the way to the shelter.

In front of the shelter, Kaina village’s gatekeepers, Land A to Z were lined-up.

“Master, we are the ‘Land’ squad, we are in charge of the protection of Kaina village.”

“Ohh, good job. Then I leave Kaina village to you while I am absent. I will head out for a bit.”

“Yes, please leave it to us. Have a good trip, master.”

And so, Jin vanished inside the shelter.



In Serroa kingdom, northward of the provincial city, Bololon, an uninhabited wasteland spread out. Its name was the Bololon wasteland.

As far as the eye could see, it was full of boulders, some which were even 50 meters tall.

It might be easier to think of the landscape as that of a small scale Arizona, which comes up in western films.

Among all these boulders, one was noticeably bigger and had an entrance to a cave at the bottom.

“Hmmm, so this is the Bololon wasteland.”

“Yes. I have probably been here about 8 times before.”

Reiko muttered.

It was that time warp gate behaved recklessly and Jin had gone missing, when Reiko used the same method to search for Jin all around the world.

“At that time, I appeared out in the sky and barely landed but due to one of the parts of the warp gate being damaged, I somehow managed to make it back to the lab but had to dispose of the warp gate.”

However, the areas it had been used at could come in handy later so Laojun tracked what faint magic it had left and dispatched an air force golem to identify the locations. And then installed the warp gate once again.

If there are points like this, it would make travelling through the continent much easier. Although Jin and his staff will be the only people using it for a while.

And for this reason, the halfpoints of the warpgate's teleportation were also being studied. For security purposes.

[First in line is the aircraft carrier 'Hodaka'. It has plenty of space inside so, when used as a relay point, even if by any chance, enemies land on it, they would not be able to go through to Hourai island.]

Laojun explained it like that to Jin. Jin said 'that's fine, I will leave it to you' and gave his approval. That system will probably be done quite soon.

The carriage, which had Jin and Reiko, ran southwest of the wasteland.

“Hmmm, he also installed a compass, eh? As expected of Laojun.”

On the ingeniously camouflaged carriage steering console, a compass was also installed.

“The highway runs from the east to the west, so if I just keep going southwest, I will come upon it.”

Jin kept the carriage at ‘golem horse’ mode and fixed the speed to be at 50 kmph. The highway should come into view within an hour.

“Father, I can see it.”

Reiko raised her voice. To her eyes the highway, which spread about the horizon, was visible. And so, Jin lowered the carriage’s speed.

Even Jin knew that running a carriage at 50 kmph would be out of place. But even then, the carriage’s speed exceeded 20 kmph.



Bololon and Ganiz had only about 30 kilometers between them.

Reinhart’s carriage was going along at ease.

After all, it would take about a day at most to reach the border, on the other side of which was their motherland.

“Reinhart, good weather we’re having today.”

Lining up the carriages side by side, Matheus started talking to Reinhart.

“Yeah, feels like the full bloom of spring. Don’t you feel sleepy?”

Opening up the carriage’s window, as Reinhart said jokingly to Matheus,

“Haha, true. I would feel sleepy on the horse. For better or worse, I am a soldier, after all. I wouldn’t even doze off on a horse by mistake.”

Answering with that, he deliberately surveyed the surroundings. And then, his face

got stiff.

“Reinhart, hasten your carriage.”

“What happened?”

“...An unknown carriage is coming this way from the wastelands.”

Hearing that, Reinhart opened up his other window and looked outside. But contrary to Matheus' expression, Reinhart's one was of joy.

“Matheus, that is a friend of mine.”

“What?”

“I told you before, right? The magi craftsman I got to know and befriend along this trip. No, I guess now he is the Honorary Magi craftsman of Egelia kingdom. That is Jin Nidou's carriage.”

“Say what? That's his?”

“Yeah. Who else can make such an exquisite golem horse?”

Bathing in the afternoon sunlight, the silver-colored golem horse shined brightly, pulling the aluminum carriage behind it. Controlling such a horse was a golem made of iron.

“Oiii, Reinhart!”

From that carriage, Jin himself set out and was waving towards them.

“Oii, Jin! It has been so long!”

Reinhart also got out through the window and waved back.



PtFF by: traktorA7EN